MENTORING AT-RISK YOUTH: A COLLEGE PREP MINISTRY

By

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ABSTRACT

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The Convent Avenue Baptist Church lacks an educational program within the church to prepare our at-risk youth for the college admissions process. "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" will focus on preparing these students for the college admissions process. In the spring of 2013 a group of 14 at-risk high school students from all over the city took part in a Kaplan SAT Prep Course for ten weeks. Some of the mentoring activities were: An "Educational Awareness Summit," mentoring workshops, worship services, College Fair/Career Day, and Financial Aid/Scholarship Workshop.

The objective was to help prepare our students for the college admissions process by raising their SAT scores in various subjects: math, English, science, and writing essays; while at the same time mentoring these young people in how to become "College Ready." Through partnerships with the Convent Avenue Baptist Church, parents, Councilman Robert Jackson, elected officials, and community organizations, the program succeeded. The Saturday SAT Prep course and the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" Program will be offered again next spring for the at-risk youth of our church. A non-profit organization, "Center for At-Risk Youth International Incorporated" was developed to meet the needs of our youth and "Keep the Vision/Dream Alive." This Demonstration Project on "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" will show how at-risk youth in the church and A. Philip Randolph Campus High School were transformed because of this Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project.

DEDICATION

This Demonstration Project is dedicated to my Parents, in memory of my late father, the late Rev. J. P. Perkins II and my mother, Mrs. Gladys M. Perkins. Also my son Michael G. Davis, Jr., and the Perkins Family.

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INTRODUCTION

"It Takes a Village to Raise a Child" Hillary Rodham Clinton

Mentoring young people has been a passion of mine for many years. For many years, I've always thought that more should have been done to help our youth along the way. I remember attending a Christian Education Conference at my home church, Convent Avenue Baptist Church, in Harlem. A group of Associate Ministers and Dr. Weaver were talking about our youth in the church and how there was a "generation gap." They don't know how to reach our youth today. Dr. Weaver, the facilitator gave some suggestions to use to communicate with our youth. I shared with the ministers my work as an intern with U-Turn. U-Turn was a part of New York Theological Seminary's Sing Sing Prison Program where they would use former incarcerated men to help encourage young people to stay in school and be a positive role model in society. In my last year at New York Theological Seminary as a Master of Divinity student, I was granted an intern/scholarship to work with "at-risk youth" at one of their sites. These were students who had aged out of foster care, were socially deprived, and at-risk in our neighborhood. Even though I was a former college adjunct instructor and public school teacher, I had to learn how to speak their language. It wasn't until I started working with at-risk youth at Greater Universal Baptist Church that I saw the need for a "Mentoring Ministry." When I was a special education teacher at John Philip Sausa Middle School 142 in the Baychester area of the Bronx, I worked with at-risk youth. This school was one of the most challenging schools in District 11. I had to learn how to "handle' disruptive students in the classroom and outside, which laid the foundation for me to work with atrisk youth. Dr. Weaver said, "You've got to bring that program here." To this day, I have never forgotten what he said. So when I was asked what type of program I wanted to implement it became clear that a "Mentoring At-Risk Youth Program" was needed there to encourage and prevent drop-outs in school.

Dr. Weaver's words stayed with me since 2010. I remember when Dr. Eleanor Moody-Shepard called me to tell me that there was a new Doctor of Ministry Program in "Leadership, Community Organizing and Social Justice." She thought this would be a great fit for me. This is what I needed. I've always wanted to make a difference in one's life. When I look back, teaching at John Philip Sousa Middle School 142 was challenging—there were five gangs in that school. I was a mentor to these young people. So, when Dr. Shepard asked what our project would be on my mind went back to Dr. Weaver saying "We need a program like this in Convent. You have to bring it here to help the youth, since there was not a program like that here." After a lengthy discussion with Dr. Shepard and Dr. Lundy, we decided that my project should be a "Mentoring Program."

In 2012, I had a chance to visit the A. Philip Randolph Campus and speak with their principal, David Fanning. He suggested that I do a program to help students with college prep, college essays, math and science. I will never forget his words "If you do SAT's and college prep they will be knocking down your door to get in." When I returned to NYTS, I spoke to Dr. Lundy; she said "That's it!" You should have seen me in the conference room. I was shouting "Hallelujah" and praising the Lord. It finally clicked. "Mentoring At-Risk Youth" was my focus point and I had to get them SAT help.

When I was doing my research, I ran across the Kaplan SAT Prep Course. I gave them a call and within two days I had a meeting with Jane Berkowitz, a representative for Kaplan. My Demonstration Project "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" was implemented in my home church, the Convent Avenue Baptist Church, a historical black church in Harlem.

The target population was students from A. Philip Randolph Campus, which is located on the City College Campus. Some of these high school students were deemed atrisk of academic failure and in danger of not graduating from high school. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services defines "at-risk youth [as] children from broken homes; with incarcerated parents; with deceased parents, failing in school, adjudicated as juvenile delinquents or in need of supervision, in foster Care."

My vision was to see how we could help students from Convent and A. Philip Randolph's juniors and seniors be better prepared to meet the challenges of college and to stay-in and not drop-out once enrolled. After speaking with Principal Fanning, he gave me some insight on what our high school students need in order to prepare for college. Based upon Mr. Fanning's assessment, I felt that the best way to improve their SAT scores and writing was through a Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course. It would be a test-prep ministry that would be held in the church on Saturdays to help at-risk youth in the church. This Demonstration Project will give you a snapshot of their progress and growth of our students, during the 10 week SAT Prep course. As one reads this "Mentoring At-Risk Youth" you will be amazed at the results of the program and why it is so necessary that it be replicated in local churches and faith-based organizations to help our students.

¹ New York State Office of Children and Family Services, "Detention Risk Assessment Instrument," http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/rehab/drai/system_info_sheet.asp (accessed January 22, 2014).

At Convent we had measurable results. These young people lives will forever be transformed and changed because of the generosity, love and sacrifice of individuals that made this Kaplan SAT Prep course possible for them to take it *without charge*. As Hillary Clinton, the formal First Lady of the United States put it best—"It takes a Village to Raise a Child." The schools and parents cannot do it alone, we as clergy must lend a hand through mentoring programs like this one to prepare our students for the college admissions process so that "No child will be Left Behind" in any grade or subject.

CHAPTER 1 IMAGINATION FOR THE COLLEGE PREP MINISTRY

"Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (Proverb 29:18, KJV)

The College Prep Ministry was an inspiration of Divine Providence. It has been a passion of mine for many years to create an after-school program for children and youth in our community. During the fall of 2012, I had a chance to talk to the principal of A. Philip Randolph Campus High School, David Fanning, concerning our youth and their academic needs to prepare them for college. He shared with me that the students needed help with "College Prep," college essays and SAT Prep. "If you can offer them something like this to help them, then they will be knocking down your door to get in." Thus, the "College Prep Ministry" was developed. It would not be a regular after-school program; instead it would focus on getting high school students ready for the college admissions process.

Our goal was to prepare these young people for the future. "If you were to enroll in a technical school, a vocational school, or an apprenticeship program, you often must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. If you want to enter a college or university, you must have a high school diploma or the equivalent." It is so important to lay the ground work for success. After talking to Mr. Fanning of A. Philip Randolph Campus High School and doing some research, I ran across the Kaplan K-12 Learning Services

²Ellen Northcutt, Complete GED Preparation (Austin, TX: Steck-Vaughn, 1997), 4.

(Test Prep). I got in touched with Kaplan to see if they would be willing to come to Convent and teach a SAT Prep Course. They were excited about the venture. At that time, it had only been done twice, once in a Bronx church and in Brooklyn, where a pastor took money out of his own pocket to pay for test prep for his students, because he felt that the school was failing our kids. One of the ways to make that happen is by a "Mentoring and College Prep Ministry."

I remember one Friday night when I was trying to get students to take the SAT Prep Course. I met a young mother that was picking up her child from the M.L. Wilson's Girls and Boys Club on the fifth floor of Convent's Educational Building. She said, "I don't have a child that is in high school. Do you have any test prep for third graders, like the ELA? I said, no! She asked me "What are you going to do for us? We need help too!" At that point, I knew we were on to something. What we were trying to do with the "College Prep Ministry" was needed here at Convent Avenue Baptist Church. The Kaplan SAT Prep Course helped our students to master strategies and skills that they would be able to use in the classroom and on their SAT's.

The ultimate goal in "Mentoring At-Risk Youth" was to instill in them good moral values, so these young people will become productive citizens and take their rightful place in society. I strongly believe that the church and faith-rooted organizations should get involved in preparing our young people for the future as well. The impetus of the college prep ministry comes from the fact that a lot of our children are not prepared for the future.

When I was young and living in Alabama we did not have the opportunities high school students have today. When I talk to some of my friends who are parents, the

biggest complaint was that "our students are not prepared for the college admissions process nor do they know what to do. How to apply for grants, scholarships that are available." The church has a responsibility to lend a hand in the process. In my church, we have some children and youth programs and a scholarship ministry for those who are going to college, but they do not have any ministry to prepare our youth for the college admissions process.

When I was starting the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry," I asked for a donation from the Progressive Ministry at the church, to give these students scholarships to pay for the SAT Prep Course. I was told that they will get them after I am finished. No funds are available for a Saturday SAT Prep. Then one day, I was serving downstairs in the children and youth Church, when one of the parents of two students asked if they could donate a scholarship to the program. I said, yes!" She gave six hundred dollars to pay for two scholarships. They turn out to be professors at Columbia University and members of my church. Then one of my site team members donated another three hundred dollar scholarship for one student to attend the Saturday SAT Prep Course. They started the ball rolling. Through private donations, grants and student loans, the Mentoring At-Risk Youth program was funded and ready to go. Since there was not enough time to apply for grants, donations from congregants were appreciated. This is where the "College Prep Ministry" started.

In conclusion the College Prep Ministry will give these students a fighting chance to succeed by raising their academic and SAT scores. If you have a high SAT score, then you will be able to get a better financial aid package with the college of your choice.

Now, we do have a mentoring ministry at the church; however, they could not see the

"vision" that God had in store for this program. I was met with opposition to what I was trying to do by bringing SAT help to the at-risk youth in our church. There were times when I asked an individual to talk to the students in the youth church about college. His reply was "Minister Perkins there are no 'at-risk youth' here at Convent." You need to take your program somewhere else." I was disappointed that he felt that way. However, God gave me ways to go around it to accomplish my goal.

Since the college prep ministry was a success, I have been asked by my Senior Pastor Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. to keep the program here at Convent. I was recognized for my work with "Mentoring At-Risk Youth in Convent" by Mr. Ennis, the office manager, during a Christmas staff party. At the closing dinner for the students, Jane Berkowitz, a representative of Kaplan shared with the congregation that this "Mentoring At-Risk Youth Program" has been replicated by Councilman Robert Jackson's' office three times in Harlem and Washington Heights.

I am excited about what God is going to do. If we have faith as small as a mustard seed, He will make it grow and multiply. "I have seen the 'Vision" and I know if "God gave it to me to do, then I know without a shadow of a doubt, that God will make a way for it to happen." Word has gotten around and now I have a waiting list of more than thirty five young people waiting to come in. Everyone is asking me, "When will the next class begin. Who are your teachers?" Even the people who were against it want their child or grandchild to take the class next time it's given. I strongly feel that this type of ministry is need in our churches. If we can give our young people the extra help they need, they will score better on tests and their grades will come up as well. We just have to find a way to get more funding for the program and donations from our congregants to

fund the program until enough funds are secured. I've had great feedback. As a former public school teacher, and a college adjunct professor, I know there is a need for a program like this. We have to come together and see that it is done.

When I was growing up, we did not have these types of opportunities. Children today have opportunities and don't take advantage of them. You can open the door, but they don't want to walk through. We have to change their mind set. Let them know that the way out of poverty is not in the "bling, bling," but rather in education. That is how they can get out of poverty, by preparing themselves for the future. It's not going to be easy, but with a little faith and perseverance, they can be anything they want to be.

Yes, the vision for the college prep ministry is great. There is so much we can do to help, but they must take the first step to help themselves. There is no free ride in life. All of us have to work to make things better and it starts with the parents, child and the church. The vision of a College Prep Ministry has to be kept together to prepare our children for the future. Yes, our former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said it best "It takes a Village to Raise a Child..." With God at the helm, they can make it through and be successful in life. We have to keep on mentoring and encouraging our youth to look at the big picture. And don't be persuaded by fast money. They can get out of poverty by applying themselves in their academics.

CHAPTER 2 HISTORY OF COLLEGE PREP EDUCATIONING YOUNG PEOPLE

"A modern school of education ought to look at education comprehensively, and this means considering the educative process across the entire life span, in all, the situation and institutions, in which it occurs in a wide variety of social and cultural contexts and in the past as well as the present and alternative, imagined the future."

The historical value of education dates back to the beginning of time. When we look at education and its value we must consider how it has played a part in the development of individuals from the beginning to now. We see that children everywhere are required by law to go to school. Almost all schools are structured the same way in that society dictates that going to school helps build critical thinking skills, character, teamwork, and lays a firm foundation for students to become productive citizen in society. We see that down through history, society and local governments have enacted laws and provided expenses to provide funding for schools to ensure that our children have the necessary tools to learn each day. When we take a look at the beginning of humankind, we see that in the beginning children did not go to school. Some of these children had to hunt or work on farms. We see that education started with modeling what their parents did while they hunt or fish for food.

³ Teacher's College, Columbia University, http://www.tc.columbia.edu/a%26h/history-ed/ (accessed August 8, 2013).

"In the beginning, for hundreds of thousands of years, children educated themselves though self-directed play and exploration." These children were taught by example. Their parents taught them to hunt and gather food. Anthropology is the study of man (from Greek *anthropos*, man, and *logia* study). It is mainly concerned with a single species, *Homo sapiens*: How he has become what he is, what he has accomplished, and what his potentialities are. Young people have the potential to learn new things, every day. Anthropologists have studied cultures from the beginning and have stated that they were taught by parents. They probably learned from "trial and error" to see what works, and then they were able to show their children and offspring how to fish, hunt and gather food for the family. This was their classroom.

"With the rise of Agriculture and later of industry, children became forced laborer, play & exploration were suppressed. Willfulness which had a virtue, became a vice that had to be beaten out of children." Children were forced to work. They did not have any choice as we have today. Then "Systems of slavery and other forms of servitude developed. Those who were wealthy depended up servants and slaves to help them survive. All this culminated with feudalism which was a few kings and lords at the top and slaves and serfs at the bottom of the ladder. Most children during this era became indentured servants.

⁴ Peter Gray, "Freedom to Learn," *Psychology Today*, August 20, 2008, http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/freedom-learn/200808/brief-history-education (accessed January 22, 2014).

⁵ Victor Barnouw, *Physical Anthropology and Archaeology* (Homewood, IL: The Dorsey Press, 1971), 4.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Gray, Freedom to Learn.

The principle lessons that children had to learn were obedience, suppression of their own will and show of reverence toward lords and masters. A rebellious spirit could result in death. During the Middle Ages, lords and masters had no problem with disciplining children. They were allowed to discipline those who were in their employment into submission. In one document from the late 14th and 15th Century, a French count advised that Noble Huntsman should 'choose a boy servant as young as 7 or 8 and that... this boy should be beaten until he had a proper dread of failing to carry out his master's order.'

The document went on to list prodigious numbers of chores that the boy had to do daily like attend the dogs. It was very difficult for these children born during the Middle Ages; they had no choice but to obey their masters. There were no laws on the books about attending school as we know today. They were sold or captured and put into slavery. "With the rise of industry and of a new bourgeoisie class, feudalism gradually subsided, but this did not immediately improve the lives of most children...Business owners like landowners, needed laborers and could profit by extracting as much work from them as possible with as little compensation as possible."

This type of child labor existed all over the world. They would work long hours, seven days a week. As times changed, children were moved from the field, where there was plenty of fresh air and they could occasionally rest and play. But when the Industrial Revolution can, they ended up in dark factories. "In England, overseers of the poor community farmed out paupers' children to factories where they were treated as slaves. Many thousands of them died each year of diseases, starvation did exhaustion. Not until the 19th century did England pass laws limiting child labor." These laws were passed so that these children would be protected. They were concerned about their health and not

⁸ Barnouw, *Physical Anthropology*, 315.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

being over worked by laborers. "In 1883, for example, new legislation forbade textile manufacturing from employing children under the age of 9 and limited the maximum weekly work hours to 48 for 10- to 12 years –old and 69 for 1- to 17 years old." This ruling made a difference in the lives of these little kids. This was another type of slavery. Children did have many rights, but this gave a few back to them.

The human instincts to play and explore are so powerful that they are never be fully beaten out of a child. But certainly the philosophy of education throughout that period, to the degree that it had been articulated with the opposite of the philosophy that hunter-gathers had held for hundreds of thousands of years earlier." It wasn't until later years that the church took an active role in the education of children. "For various reasons, some religious and some secular, the idea of universal, compulsory education arose and gradually spread. Education was understood as inculcation.

As the industry progressed and became somewhat more automated, the need for child labor declined in some parts of the world. The idea spread that childhood should be a time for learning and schools for children were developed as places of learning. The idea and practice of universal compulsory public education developed gradually in Europe, from the 16th century on to the 19th century. It was an idea that had many supporters, who had their own agendas concerning the lessons that children learn." ¹³

History shows that much of the impetus for Universal Education came from the emerging Protestant Religion. One such scholar and reformist was Martin Luther. He declared that

¹¹ Barnouw, *Physical Anthropology*, 315.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

Salvation depends on each person's own reading of the Scriptures. A corollary, not lost on Luther, was that each person must learn to read and must also learn that the Scriptures represent absolute truths and that Salvation depends on understanding those truths. Luther and others leaders of the Reformation promoted public education as a Christian duty, to save souls from eternal damnation. ¹⁴

This was Martin Luther's way of bringing attention to education and getting the children the basic education they needed. "By the end of the 17th century, Germany, which was the leader in the development of schooling, had laws in most of its states requiring that children attend school; but the Lutheran Church, not state, ran the schools." Martin Luther's message hit home. Christians began to see it from a different perspective that these children need to be in a place of learning. A place where they could learn more about Christ and what it meant to live a godly life and at the same time, they learned about God. Luther was a strong advocate for education and he brought to the forefront of his ministry, which affected the whole church community.

People were more concerned about their soul and where they were going to spend eternity. Thus, the Protestant Church community thought it was a good idea to learn how to read. That each one had to know how to read for themselves, in order to read the Sacred Scriptures in the Bible. It was the beginning of public education in Germany and later caught on in other area of Europe. American education did not begin until the mid-17th Century. During this period it was the first colony to mandate schooling. The First Colony stated that the

Purpose of which would be to turn children into good Puritans. Beginning in the 1690, children in Massachusetts and adjacent colonies learn to read from the New England Primer, known collegially as "The little Bible of

¹⁴ Ibid., 315.

¹⁵ Ibid.

New England. This was their textbook. This little book included a set of shore rhymes to help children learn Alphabet, beginning with 'In Adam's fall, we Sinned all' and ending with, 'Zacchaeus he did climb the tree, His lard to see.' 16

The Primer also included the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments and various lessons designed to instill in children a fear of God and a sense of duty to their elders. It was a good beginning. Some of those values could be used today to turn some of our children around. Employers saw public education as a way to recruit young and future employees. They felt that schooling would create better workers. To them the most crucial lesson was punctuality, following direction, tolerance for long hours of tedious work, and a minimal ability to read and write. From their point of view...the duller the subject taught in school, the better. They saw schools as a place of creating good patriots and future soldiers. To them, the crucial lesson was about the glories of the fatherland, the wondrous achievement and moral virtues of the Nation's Founders ad leaders, and the necessity to defend the nation from evil forces elsewhere. They were encouraged to learn about Latin, Math, and all other subjects. "All of them saw schooling as inculcation, the implanting of certain truth and ways of thinking into children's mind, Methods of inculcation in forced repetition and testing for many of what was repeated." So public schooling was beneficial to those who own industries. This was a way of recurrent at an early age. 'They were "Home Grown." They knew who was smart and who they would have come to work for them and what positions whey would hold. The kept up with the progress of each student 17.

¹⁶ Ibid., 315.

¹⁷ Ibid.

After the rise of schooling, people began to look at education (schooling) differently as child's work. During this time, the same power-assertiveness methods that they used for children working in the fields were transferred to the classroom as well. It was not until John Wesley was instrumental in helping them develop rules for school. John Wesley's *Rules for Wesleyan School*, which included the statement "As we have no play days, so neither do we allow any time for play on any day; for he that play as a child will play as a man." Some people were offended by this statement. Some rejected these rules.

They had ways of dealing with disruptive children in that day as well. "... One of the Masters in Germany kept record of punishment he metered out 51 years of Teaching....911, 527 blows with a rod. 124,010 blows with a cane, 20,989 taps with a Ruler, 1,136,715 blows with hand...7,905 blows on the ear and 1,118,800 blows on the head....Clearly that teacher was proud of all the educating he had done." When we look back on this, these children did not have any rights; this type of behavior was accepted. Teacher/Master had the right to discipline children. Back then, this master thought he was teaching, but really it was nothing short of abuse. Times have changed. This kind of abuse is unacceptable today, back then, it was allowed. In the 19th and 20th Century, public education gradually evolved toward a conventional schooling. Methods of discipline were more humane, or at least less corporal; the lesson become more secular. The curriculum expanded as knowledge expanded, including ever-growing subjects and number of hours in a school day...Schools gradually replaced field work, factory work,

¹⁸ Ibid.

and domestic chores as the child's primary job. Children put in 6 hours plus 2 hour homework. Guidelines were put in place to promote learning.

Today, education is still important. I can remember when I was growing up in the Deep South, during the segregation era of the United States. Education was "Separate but not equal." African-Americans did not have the same education as whites. It was not until the Supreme Court Ruling *Browns v the Broad of Education* (1954) that we could see some changes in education. The biggest problem is that teachers feel that they have to "teach to the test." There are times when teachers do not get to teach the main subjects because they feel if their students do not do well on the standardized test they will get penalized or lose their job.

Now with the implementation of the "Common Core Curriculum," people all across the nation disagree with having these types of standards. According to David Sims, a writer for *The Chief*, which is the Civil Employees' Weekly Newspaper, "the new curriculum was designed to stop the old practices of Teaching to the Test. Instead of having test drive curriculum and instruction, we need to have curriculum and instruction drive testing." Teachers were concerned about their rating and classroom observations that would affect their "satisfactory" status. In an interview with the State Board of Regents Chancellor Merryl Tisch stated that "...it's not sustainable for the city to have 75% of its students graduating high school requiring remediation at the college level. The New School's reports also focused on colleges, recommending the de Blasio administration "concentrate more on resources...in early and ongoing support for

¹⁹ David Sims. "Urge greater Focus on College Prep, Educating de Blasio; Say literacy, Common Core are keys to Success." *The Chief Leader*, 6 December, 2013, 3.

colleges and career guidance, especially for the majority of young people who don't have this support in their own families."²⁰

Education is so important to me. When I look back over my life, we did not have the opportunities that we have today. We must make sure that our children are given a good education from the primary years to the secondary level so that they will be well prepared and will not be disconnected and dropout of school. As a former public school teacher and college adjunct, I see the need for more educational programs to help our children at all levels. I got a chance to see first-hand, students going back to school to get their GED.

According to Dan Bloom in *Building Better Programs for Disconnected Youth*, "Too many young people are disconnected from the world of school and work, putting them at serious risk for getting into trouble today and not succeeding in the future." This can be a real problem. If they are not in school, then they might get into trouble. "Recent estimates suggest that about 17 percent of young people between the ages of 16 and 24-about 6-7 million people – are neither working nor in school (this figure includes both dropouts and high school graduates)... The Great Recession and the slow economic recovery have also exacerbated this disconnection for young workers." This can have an astronomical effect on people's lives. They stop looking for work and get depressed. "Nearly two-thirds of dropouts obtain a diploma or a GED credential within eight years after their schedule graduation date." This is really good news to know that some high

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Dan Bloom, *Building Better Programs for Disconnected youth*, "MDRC, http://www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/Youth_020113.pdf (accessed January 3, 2014).

²² Ibid.

school dropouts are trying to get their lives together. "Even among dropouts from the lowest social economic group, more than 40 percent eventually obtain a GED or a diploma, which suggest that an even larger proportion attempt to reengage." ²³

That is why it is so important for the churches to get involved in the education process so that all of our students will have a chance to get a better education and succeed in life. It starts early in their academic life. This is a snapshot of the history of education from the beginning to now. We have come so far, but yet not far enough! There is still work to be done. That is why we must come together as a church, community, state and nation to see that our children get the necessary tools they need to be prepared for the future.

²³ Ibid.

CHAPTER 3 COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

It is so important for the church (Convent Avenue Baptist Church) to be committed to a program like "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry." Convent Avenue Baptist Church is one of the largest historic black churches in Harlem. Its membership exceeds 3500 believers in the Baptist faith. It has been in existence, since 1942. We have 8 and 11 am services. On the first Sunday, we have a 5pm service. We also have a children and youth church in the lower sanctuary. Children all ages attend this service. We also have Saturday educational programs from pre-K to youth. But they did not have a Saturday SAT Prep until this year. Because of my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project on "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry, the church has decided to keep the Saturday SAT Prep classes for our youth at CABC

When I first started out, I met with resistance and obstacles. But God took me through. When I had the 1st Educational Awareness Summit many of their members attended the summit and were amazed at the discussion. The first part of the summit was a film on "Waiting for Superman" narrated by Geoffrey Canada and the second part was a discussion on "Charter Schools vs. Public School," where a lot of community leaders, politicians and faith-based organization were in attendance. They walked away with a different point of view. They saw from a different perspective, what is needed in the church. As a result of the Kaplan Saturday SAT Prep Course, the Mentoring Ministry of

CABC has instituted a voice and music lessons on Saturday, which began in September of 2013.

Since I implemented my project I have been asked to keep the program here at Convent Avenue Baptist Church by the pastor. On September 17, 2013, I had a conversation with my Pastor Jesse T. Williams, Jr. Senior Pastor of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church. He was pleased with the "Mentoring At-Risk Program" and wanted it to remain at Convent. He said, "You have made liaison with the community. Do you have that stuff written down? I want to keep it here. We will give you the space and you can run it. We just want it to stay here." As a result of the program, it has been replicated three times in Harlem and Washington Heights, as per Jane Berkowitz of the Kaplan K-12 Learning Services. Parents have been asking me when the new SAT class will start. We now have a waiting list of more than 35 individuals, who would like to attend the next class. The 1st Educational Awareness Summit was held at CABC to bring awareness to the church and community, the need for more education programs for our youth.

There was a lot of "buzz" and interest in our new "Mentoring At-Risk Youth Program." Everyone wanted to know what I was doing. Even the Boys and Girls Club of Harlem, was told by Mrs. Lewis to go down there and see what Minister Perkins was doing. "She's doing I heard she has a Kaplan SAT Prep Course going on the fourth floor. Maybe we can do something like that?" Pastor Williams was so pleased that his wife, First Lady Gelane Williams wants me to hold a space for their son "Little Jesse" when he gets to that age. All of the parents from Convent and A. Philip Randolph Campus High School and Mr. Fanning were "touched" by the program. Mr. Fanning was touched by the program and the generosity that was shown to his students. He wanted to know "why

someone would do something like this for students that they did not even know?" The love of God can overcome any barrier and challenges we may have. If they can feel that love and sincerity then, we can work together to help our Black and Latino brothers and sisters be better prepared for the journey. As a result, their lives were changed forever. Overall, the program was a success. We have the support and commitment of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church. Years from now, students that were helped from the program will come back and mentor others.

CHAPTER 4 WHY MENTOR AT-RISK YOUTH?

Some might ask the question "Why Mentor at-risk youth? What so special about them? Why not mentor all students?" When I was teaching in the public school system as a Special Education teacher and an adjunct instructor for the College of New Rochelle, I got a chance to see first-hand students in need. As a teacher, one has to be able to discern what is needed in your classroom. As I worked closely with students from all age groups and ethnic backgrounds, I observed that there were some that needed more help than others. When I was an adjunct instructor, I saw adults who were going back to get their GED. At the junior high school level there was a need for more after school programs for the "Lock-Key-Kid" whose parents may be working. After being assaulted, I realized that more needed to be done at MS142 to help combat violence. We had to some way for the students to turn their lives around. Again when I was doing my intern with U-Turn of NYTS with the Rev. Dr. C. Vernon Mason, I realized that there was a reason why God had taken me through all of this. I had a chance to give something back. I worked with students who were labeled "At-risk." The term at-risk is frequently used to describe children and youth. It stigmatized certain groups of individuals. On the positive side, the term also provides some leeway in how to define the term "At-risk." Who is at-risk in our society? It is the children, seniors and the disabled. Now some might argue that children are more at-risk than any other group of individual because that are young and need more help than others because they might be disabled, have low-self-esteem or have been

abused. "Families are the most critical setting for the development of children, and family risk factors, such as poverty, single parenthood, and low parental education levels regularly have been found to undermine children's development...a low-income community with a high crime rate and a low high school graduation rate might be viewed as a place that puts children and adolescent at-risk of poor outcomes." All of these circumstances add to the problem of the "at-risk."

What are children at-risk of in the 21st Century? There are many reasons why children are "At-risk?"

Society usually describes it in the long-term as school failure, death, economic dependency, or incarceration. However, particular out-of-school-time programs in the community are likely to have more specific goals for at-risk children, such as 'improving grades in school, delaying sexual initiation or developing conflict resolution skills.'

On the other hand, these groups may just focus on one or two specific targets such as...improving arts performance, sports competence, academics skill and test scores and into encourage volunteering.²⁵

All these factors can contribute to a child being at-risk. By assessing the at-risk student and their progress can be measured and used to help the community at large. Now, some "children have been defined as at-risk for variety of different indicators, including having limited reading proficiency, having experienced abuse or trauma, having a disability or illness, or having exhibited behavior problems." There are so many variables that contribute to a child being at-risk. That is why we have to come together to help those in need. We need more mentoring programs.

²⁴ Kristin Anderson Moore, "Defining the Term at-risk," *Child Trends: Research to Results Brief*, http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2006/01/DefiningAtRisk1.pdf (accessed January 22, 2014).

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

One would ask: "How would you measure their productivity and progress?" The "Measures of the family risk includes poverty, a low level parental education, a large number of children, not owning a home, a single parenthood, welfare dependence, family dysfunction, abuse, parental mental illness, parental substance use and family discord or illness."²⁷ All these contribute to the at-risk youth's ability to function and may cause low-self-esteem problems that may distract them from their academic learning abilities. In this project we tried to help some of these at-risk youth by preparing them for the college admissions process. Why at-risk youth? Because they are the ones who need the most help. They are the ones that are forgotten. They are the ones who need more protection in many areas of life. "... A positive, caring relationship with a parent can inoculate against many risks. Ongoing positive relationship with other adults represents another critical protective factor." 28 What we tried to do in this mentoring program is to give them a fresh start and level the playing field. One of the ways we tried to help the atrisk is to give them a chance to improve their academics and at the same time prepare them for what is to come. The next level of their lives, college admissions can be tedious, time consuming and at times not knowing what to expect in their journey to be accepted at a college, university or a community college. This is just one step in the journey for the at-risk youth in our community. Sometime it is good to know what terms mean so that we would be better prepared to help those who are in need.

It is critical to note that at-risk is a concept that reflects a chance or a probability. It does not imply certainty; risk factors raise the chance of poor outcomes, while protective factors raise the chance of good outcome. It is valuable for programs to understand the levels of risk and protective

²⁷ Moore, "Defining the Term at-risk."

²⁸ Ibid.

factors in their program clients, as well as of their potential clients...understanding can help in developing programs and also in obtaining funding for them. ²⁹

That is why it is so important for the church and community to come together to create more programs to help the at-risk youth so that they will have high self-esteem and skills to make it through the 21st Century.

²⁹ Ibid.

CHAPTER 5 THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

The dream of every parent is to give their child better opportunities for a brighter future than they had. When I was growing up in Alabama, my father the Rev. John P. Perkins II, use to tell us "I don't care if you are a hundred years old; you have to finish high school." Education was very important to him because at the time (in the sixties) black men were only allowed to go to the 9th grade. Years later my father went back and got his GED. Then, he went on to Birmingham Bible College, where he finished his college education with a dual degree in Pastor Care and Pastoral Excellence. He set an example for all of his twelve children. Now, when I talk to our youth; I let them know that it was not easy for us or their parents. That is why education is so important to me. Every parent wants their children to be prepared for college. They believe as I believe that "Education is the Way out of Poverty." There are a lot of barriers today. We need a new kind of thinking, a new kind of strategy and a new kind of leadership will be required going forward in life.

To overcome the barriers of yester year, we had to confront and overcome clearly identifiable oppressive laws, tyrannical customs and radically repressive practices...Today's primary barrier may in a sense, be more difficult to confront than previous barriers, because detecting it will

³⁹ Evelyn J. Perkins, *Overcoming Back Surgery and Finding My Way Back* ([N. p.]: CreateSpace, 2013).

require African Americans to face up and overcome an apparent unwillingness to look inward for solutions to problems.³¹

You have to overcome the barriers that keep you in bondage. Our young people need a fighting chance. One thing our at-risk students are concerned about is college admissions and if they will be able to get into the college of their choice. We as mentors have to help prepare our youth for this process and the steps they will have to go through in order to be accepted into a college or university. That is why planning is so important in their lives. The college admission is a process where students apply to colleges and universities; there are specific steps one has to do to prepare for the College Admissions Process. What extra-curricular activities should we include on our application to show that they are well rounded individuals? Test prep to take to get high SAT/ACT scores foe an early acceptance. When is it a good time to apply for college? What students should be doing from 9th grade to the 12th grade in their studies and out of the classroom? What colleges/universities are looking for when they receive your application? What would be helpful to the student? What is the best course to finance your college education? These are some of the many questions that high school student may want to ask concerning the college admissions process. It is so important that we start helping our students at an early age and grade so that they will be better prepared and it will not stress them out. Back in the sixties, when I was in high school, we called local colleges and asked for a college application or wrote letters to various colleges and universities. Today, it is much different. One could call, email, or write letters requesting an application ant at times one could be downloaded from a computer from the internet.

³¹ Rod Paige, *The Black-White Achievement Gap* (New York: American Management Association, 2010), 2.

First, "How do we plan for college? What are the steps in planning for Higher Education?" The first step of our planning is in our formal years of education, whether it is in the elementary, middle school, freshman and high school years. It is so important to take advantage of the time we have in school and not waste it by playing around.

According to Marjorie Eberts: "High School is your dress rehearsal for college. It is where you learn to do many things that you will need to do to succeed in college." Students learn the disciplines of homework, writing papers, taking class notes, as well as participating in class discussions. "Students who carefully plan their high school curriculum will find it easier to be admitted to college." ³²

Some high school students do not realize how important it is to start preparing for that day by just doing simple things like doing their homework, community service, getting involved in school activities can lay the ground work for their college admissions process. It is so crucial that they start setting long and short term goals. What are they going to do in the future? They should start by setting achievable goals. Achievable goals are goals that they will be able to complete in six months. Then they can focus on long term goals. They don't realize that most of the work begins in the 9th grade. We have to encourage them to do their best. In the 10th grade, they should be doing their regular classroom work and preparing to take the PSAT Test to see where they are on the scale. "PSAT is the short form of SAT." High schools have begun to include the PSAT in the sophomore and junior year of high school as a gauge. Then they can start preparing for the SAT/ACT in the 11th and 12th grade.

 32 Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler, $\it How\ to\ Prepare\ for\ College\ (Lincolnwood,\ IL:\ VGM\ Career\ Horizon,\ 1999),\ 3.$

³³ John Katzman, Cracking College Admissions, 2nd ed. (New York: Random House, 2004), 82.

"What does the SAT measures? Each subject of the exam is scored on a scale from 200 to 800, with the National Average, somewhere near 500. Very few students score above the 700 or below a 300." Although there is no evidence that SAT scores are related to intelligence

Even college admissions officer who claims not to believe in the SAT, have a powerful tendency to believe SAT scores, when they see them. This tendency isn't based on experience with real students; it's based on a nearly universal tendency to believe that numbers – and any numbers- are 'real' and 'Scientific'.³⁵

While many people believe that the ACT (American College Testing, Program is "more achievement-oriented than the SAT is, but this claim is groundless. For practical purposes the ACT and the SAT are the same kind of test. Some might do better on one test or the other." According to Katzman

ACT provides score choice meaning that you can choose which score you want to send to the college, if in fact, you take the exam on multiple dates. Second, the ACT relies even less on vocabulary than the New SAT will. Third, there's no guessing penalty' on the ACT, so you absolutely shouldn't leave any question blank under any circumstances. Fourth, there are some significant contents differences, though with the Launch of the New SAT in March 2005, the content gap will close significantly.³⁷

"Admissions Officer usually ends up seeing all of our SAT scores." Even though we might think they are just seeing what we send them; the College Admissions Officer has access to all the scores.

So it's the student's choice, which test would be better for them to take.

³⁴ Katzman, Cracking College Admissions, 58.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid., 80.

³⁷ Ibid., 82.

³⁸ Ibid.

College Admissions offices stress that top SAT scores are no guarantee of Admissions –college look at the 'whole person'. They like people with lots of extracurricular involvement, lots of enthusiasm, and expertise (a 'passion') for what they do, kids who just study without contributing to the communities around them are considered undesirable by many of the most-competitive universities. Obviously though it's better to get a 2400 than 2300. And it's better to get 2300 than a 2200, etc. But a 2400 is no guarantee of admissions."³⁹

Our high school students must realize that when they apply to college, the college admissions officer is looking for someone who is "well-rounded," who is willing to give something back to society. So it behooves them to use their time wisely. And at the same time watch their behavior as well, because their teachers and guidance counselors will be asked to write a "Recommendation" to the college of choice. You want them to say something "Positive" about you and not always say that you were a trouble maker.

Colleges don't want individuals that may cause trouble or be in trouble all the time. They don't have time for that.

Second, what are some of the major steps in the College Admissions Process?

Some of the College Admissions Processes are:

- First get the highest scores you can in high school.
- Second, get the best SAT/ACT scores possible. It will be useful in calculating your financial aid package.
- Third, get involved in extracurricular activities. Colleges would like to see that you are well-rounded individual. It's a way to broaden your horizon. Don't spend time on the couch playing video games. Make use of the time you have. Before you know it, it will be time to send in your application and you will not have any volunteer work on your resume to include.

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³⁹ Elizabeth Wissner-Gross. *What Colleges Don't Tell You: (and Other Parents Don't Want You to Know): 272 Secrets for Getting Your Kid into the Top Schools* (New York: Hudson Street Press, 2006), 100.

One needs to pick a college that is good for you; with the programs that interest you and preferences. High School Students should start early so that they will be able to manage it with the least stress.

According to Max Overly, in *Real U, Guide to Planning for College*, "No one is going to tell you that planning for college is easy or simple-at least, no one to whom you should lend your car keys." What he was trying to say was that it's not going to be easy, but it's doable. "Theoretically, you could do everything you need to do to get into college during your senior year." After giving a 10 week SAT Kaplan SAT Prep Class at my church last spring, I realized that students need to start preparing for college in their early high school years. One of my students was in the 12th grade. He had taken the SAT before but scored a lower score. Now that he has taken a SAT Prep Course, he can use his better scores for college. But he had already sent in his high school transcript and SAT scores. We suggested that he take a copy of it with him to college in the fall of 2013. It gave me joy to know that my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project help to prepare him for the next "leg of the journey" to college. In your sophomore year, I would suggest that all students take the PSAT practice test, which will automatically put you on the college mailing list.

- Starts looking up information on the prospective colleges you want to attend that have your interests and goals in mind.
- Take some college prep courses to prepare for college. Brush up on the area you want to major and minor in.

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⁴⁰ Max Overly, *Real U Guide to Planning for College* (Loganville, GA: Real U Publisher, 2004), 13.

⁴¹ Ibid., 14.

- During the summer do an internship in the area of interest. Start planning to
 visit colleges on your list. And start working on your resume. You will need a
 copy to attach to the Admissions' Application.
- Start working on your high school transcript.

According to Overly, "A very wide range of schools says that your high school transcript and GPA/class rank are the most important part of your application." Preparing for college starts early in a child's life. Overly says "if you think getting into college is just about applications, essay, and test scores, think again... Most selective colleges consider a number of things, when deciding whom to admit and whom to scrap, such as: Your HS transcript, you GPA and class rank, your SAT and other test scores, your essay, your extracurricular activities, special talents, and 'personal qualities,' recommendations, alumni relationships, ethnic or racial background."

All of these things count. "The fact is that hundreds of thousands of students are going to get the exact same test scores as you, and write fabulous, life-changing essays, and get personal recommendations from Jimmy Carter, and the only way colleges will ever be able to choose one applicant over another involves, blindfold and a dartboard." What Overly was saying is that you can "stand out" from among the pack by volunteering, bring up those grades, having guidance counselors keep in touch with the college in your behalf. "If you are aiming for the top schools, you have to figure out how to give yourself a challenging curriculum but still stay on top of it and get good grades." When students wait until their senior year, it really is too late to clear up things

⁴² Overly, *Real U Guide*, 20.

⁴³ Ibid., 21.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid., 22.

so that when the colleges get their application, it will be something to be proud of. In my opinion, students have to get started in the 9th grade and continue to do something every year, so that when they reach the 12th grade, everything will be in place. And the only thing they will have to do is get the recommendations and sent out the application. Each college has different times to send in their applications. So students have to check with their guidance counselors and universities for that information. What is the best course to finance your college education? FAFSA is a Financial Aid Form that all incoming students will have to fill out to help pay for college. It is filled out online at wwwl.fafsa.gov. It depends upon the needs of the child. They should apply for the grants and scholarships first before applying for loans. That may be available to them as an undergraduate student.

Being Accepted, Rejected or Delayed, what to do? College Admissions offices send out letters or email notifying their prospective students that they have been Accepted, Rejected, or Denied. According to Katzman, "all decisions are made by a small handful of professionals at still other decisions are made democratically by a large committee." On December 13, Fordham University, here in the Bronx, New York sent out 2500 acceptance letters via email to prospective students of Acceptance to their University. However, this was a mistake. The company they had hired to do the job had sent out the wrong letter. Students all across the nation was so disappointed once they were notified that an "error" had been made. Some are heart broken and is now considering other colleges and universities. Even big universities make mistake. They are human too. As a Fordham University Graduate (Masters of Arts in Adult Education and

⁴⁶ Katzman, Cracking College Admissions, 42.

Human Resource Development with Emphasis in Leadership), I would tell them to reapply. The essential learning they would get from Fordham University or an Ivy League School, they cannot get anywhere else.

According to Katzman, "Students application are given a preliminary reading and assigned two ratings, personal and academics. Each is scored on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being the best. The academic rating is based on in equal parts, grades, and standardized test scores. The personal rating is based on extracurricular activities, interviews and recommendations. If the combined rating is 4 or less, the student is assigned a "likely"; 6 or more is an Unlikely", 5 is a "possible." "Even if you know the exact composition of the Admissions office at a school to which you are applying to, it won't do you much good. The fact is that they are tired of reading boring applications." "Colleges send out their decision on April 14. If you are accepted to the college of your choice, you can use the last two weeks of April to decide whether or not you want to defer for a year. If you don't get in anywhere, you can always reapply next year-even to the same school (college admires tenacity)."⁴⁷ Once you find out the reason, why you were not accepted, then you can work on those subject areas. If you have problems with your scores, you can take some college prep courses, which will help bring up yours scores. These are some steps you can do to improve your chances of getting in the right school.

Finally, the College Admissions Process is the lengthy process that may cover a few years of preparation. If someone asked me, "When should they start preparing for college?" I would tell them the planning starts in their freshman year of high school.

Making sure that their grades are up and their SAT scores would be high enough to get in

⁴⁷ Ibid., 42-48.

any college, university or Ivy League college. That is why, I thought that a Saturday SAT Prep Course would help students at my church be better prepared for the college admissions process. It one of the components used to help our students prepare for the process and equips them with the knowledge of what to expect when they get to that point in their lives. I also recommend that high school students, whether they are at-risk or not to do some volunteer work. Because it helps to build character and it shows that they can be responsible individuals. It shows the college admissions board that you care about society and that you would be a great candidate that would focus on your class work and other activities. That you want be on the couch playing video games. That you are focused and want to prepare yourself for life's journey. You are eager to learn and can "finish" something. Any college officer would be proud to have you in their school. These are some interesting facts about the college admissions process that can be helpful in applying for college.

CHAPTER 6 METHODOLOGY FOR THE KAPLAN SAT PREP

(For At-Risk Youth)

The methodology for the Kaplan SAT Prep Course for young at-risk youth was to prepare our youth for the college admissions process and to aid them in acquiring a better SAT score and financial aid package. When I was doing my research in December 2012, I ran across the Kaplan K-12 Learning Services, a Test Prep Agency. Kaplan got its start in Brooklyn, New York, when founder Stanley Kaplan began tutoring his high school classmates to prepare for the stat Regents and SAT exams. Stanley Kaplan's legacy was developing a strategic, systematic, and critical-thinking approach to understanding test questions and developing time-management skills to navigate the SAT and other standardize tests for best results. The Kaplan approach is: Know the Content, Know the Strategies, and Know the Test. "Over the last 75 years, Kaplan SAT Prep course has enabled millions of students to achieve their goals of gaining college admissions, matriculating toward a college degree, and realizing career goals." ⁴⁸

I remember when I was teaching in public school. I had heard about Kaplan LAST Test Prep. I had taken a course with them to help me to prepare for the LAST & ATS-W Teachers' Exam that was to be given by the State of New York. I felt that it would be good to have them down to our church to help our youth prepare for college

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⁴⁸ Kaplan, "Mission and Values," http://www.kaplan.com/about-kaplan/history (accessed January 22, 2014).

and their academic studies as well through mentoring and test prep. This Kaplan SAT was designed to equip high school students with important Test-Taking Strategies and techniques along with advice on note taking and studying. These methods are then applied in the class instructional time, group discussions and daily practice test/or drills.

First students were given an entrance SAT test to see where they stand and form a starting point in their quest for excellence. The classes were held on Saturdays from February 2, 2013 to April 27, 2013 to prepare our students for the May 4, 2013 SAT test. We had 14 students from all over the tri-state area, upstate New York, and New Jersey. Classes would begin at 9am to 1:30pm. Some of the requirements for entrance into the Saturday SAT Pre Course taught by Kaplan were:

- GPA of 75-80 in each class.
- Attendance must be 100% during the 10 weeks of class
- Family income on or below poverty lines.
- Must sign confidentiality agreement allowing Min. Perkins & NYTS to use data gathered during the program (pictures, video, SAT scores, etc.)
- Must be respectful at all times.

CHAPTER 7 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COLLEGE PREP MINISTRY

The College Prep Ministry was a great success. We saw considerable change in the students' progress during the 10 week Saturday Kaplan SAT Prep Course, which was held at my home church, Convent Avenue Baptist Church from February 2, 2013 to April 27, 2013. Students were engaged and eager to learn new strategies on how to be better prepared for the SAT's and Regents Exams. The effectiveness of the programs was exhibited in their final scores. I compared the National College Board Average with the Averages of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church students.

Below is a chart showing the results of some of the students in the Convent Avenue Baptist Church Saturday Kaplan SAT Prep Course as they compare to the national average. (For the complete results, see Appendix C for Final SAT Scores.)

Student names have been changed to "Child #1 through #15 to protect the confidentiality of the student. These test scores show that the Kaplan SAT Prep helped to bring their scores up. Because of the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry," these high school students are better prepared for the academic process and the college admissions' process. As a result, they performed close to or better than the National College Board. These are some of the 14 students' results shown on the Chart below and how they stack up with the National Average.

Area	#1	2	#7	#11	#13	National Average
Critical Reading	440	500	570	430	340	496
Math	530	510	600	440	510	514
Writing	480	450	450	410	520	488

Relation of Convent Avenue Saturday Kaplan SAT Prep Course scores to National Average

Child #1 SAT Scores compared to the national average was close in some areas. Her score for CR .440, the national was 496, and she missed it by 50 points. Child #1 Math score was 530, the national average was 514, she scored 16 points higher than the national average. Child #1 on the Writing scored 480, the national Average was 488. She missed it by 8 points. Overall, this student did well on her test. Her final SAT Scores were 1450 up by 9%. This student came all the way from Far Rockaway, Queens, for this SAT Program. And she did well.

Child #13 scores on the CR were 340, compared to the national average which shows 496, she missed it by 156 points. Child#13's Math scores were 510, the National average shows 514, so she missed it by 4 points. Child # 13's Writing scores were 520, the national average shows 488, she exceeded by 32 points. Her final SAT Score was 1370. She showed a growth of 4% overall. This student started the program late. She missed 3 weeks of instructional and test time.

Child #7 scored better than the national average 74 points higher on the Critical Reading section. On the Math, she scored 600, the national average shows 514; she scored 86 points higher than the national average. On the Writing the national average was 488, Child # 7 scored 450. The national average shows 488, she missed the mark by 38 points. Over all Child #7 growth was 16% per Kaplan Test prep. She did exceptionally well because she was only in the 10th grade. Can you imagine what her scores will be in two years, if she continues to apply the principles and strategies that she learned in the

Saturday Kaplan SAT Prep Course to her future test, class work and homework. This student came all the way from New Jersey to take this SAT Prep Course.

Child #9 CR scores were 430, on the national average shows 496, this student missed it by 66 points. The national average for Math shows 514, this student got 440; he missed it by 74 points. His SAT scores went from 990 to 1280 up to 12% at the end of the program.

Child #2 CR scores were 500, the national average was 496. She exceeded by 4 points. On Math, she scored 510, the national average was 514 she missed it by 4 points. On the Writing she scored 450, the national average was 488. She only missed it by 38 points. She started out with a SAT score of 1290 and finished with a score of 1460. Her growth was up 7%. This was the first time that the Convent Avenue Baptist Church has ever had an SAT Prep Course offered for high school students in the Hamilton Heights Area of Harlem. What you see above are SAT Test Scores. They grew from a -3% to 16%. We had one student from Brooklyn, New York who came only 3 times and had to drop out because of personal problems. These were some of the 14 SAT Test Scores for the Mentoring At-Risk Youth Program held at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church from February 2, 2013 to Aril 27, 2014. The effectiveness of the program exceeded all expectations. My pastor would like to see this program continue here at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church. Grades have gone up and most of our students are now on the "Honor Roll" in their local high school. It is so important to "keep the dream alive." Only God knew what the outcome would be. A "Mentoring At-Risk Youth Program" like this should be in every church. We have to do what we can to level the playing field for our youth. And it starts with a little old SAT Prep Course. It's a sacrifice, but the rewards are

great. Our high school students from all over the tri-state area were blessed by this program. It is my hope, that this "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" will be duplicated all over the nation.

Overall, this program was a success. And judging by the data that we collected each student grew. One student, CD, her scores went up 16%. She did not attend all the classes. If she had...can you imagine what her scores would have been? Her SAT scores went from 1260 to 1650. It was so much of a 'jump' that I had to check with one of the staff of Kaplan. "We might think they are wrong, but when students learn the strategies and take the SAT test again, they score higher because they have mastered the technique and strategy." This is just one example of the progress of the high school students that took this Kaplan SAT Prep Course for 10 weeks. Now when students enroll in other SAT Prep Course, they find that it's Online for two hours or it's not taught like Ben's Class. So they don't want to go because "they know this stuff."

Parents this is what the feedback has been concerning our Kaplan SAT Prep Class held and implemented at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church in Harlem—about five blocks from City College of the City University of New York. This is only the beginning. More faith-based organizations and churches have decided to do the same or send their students to us. I remember when I had a discussion with Mr. Fanning, Principal of the A. Philip Randolph Campus at 135th Street and Convent Avenue. He said "These high schools students need SAT Prep, College Writing, and Essay to help them prepare for college and if you can give it to them for free they will be knocking down your door to get in." Since the last Kaplan SAT Prep Class in the spring of 2013, we have a waiting list of more than 30 students. Every Sunday, I have a parent coming up to me and

wanting to know, when is the next class going to start? Pastor Jesse T. Williams, Jr. want this "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" to stay here at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church. We have a Progressive Ministry, who gives out scholarships to high school seniors for college.

But Convent does not have any educational program that prepares them for the college admission process. The only ministry that addresses some of the issues is the African-American Forum has a "College Fair," which is given every year with historic Black Colleges and Universities from all over the country. College representatives talk to students and give them some advice on "How they can prepare for the College Admissions Process. Some of the topics of discussion are the SAT's and what the scores should be. Why it is important to have good grades and score high on their SAT's in order to get into the college of your choice. All of this will help our students to become more aware of the "what they need to do to prepare for higher education and the College Admissions Process.

Kaplan SAT Prep Course Survey 4-27-13

The survey of April 27, 2013 was taken on the last day of class. 8 surveys passed out (7 students and 1 teacher). Here are the results of that survey concerning the Kaplan SAT Prep Course.

POST QUESTIONS - STUDENT'S SURVEY (8 surveys passed out 1 teacher and 7 students).

- 1. How important was the Kaplan SAT Prep Course to you in preparing for the College Admissions Process? There was 11 very important, 1 mildly important, 1 Extremely Important, and 2 left blank. Overall, they felt that the Kaplan SAT Prep was very or extremely important.
- 2. Did you learn any new strategies that would prepare you for the May 4, 2013 SAT Exam? 7 students said 'yes.'
- 3. Was the place easy to get to? 6 students said yes and 1 said 'sometimes.' It was positive.

- 4. Would you recommend having another Kaplan SAT Prep Course at CABC? 6 students said 'yes.' 1 student did not answer the question.
- 5. Was it affordable? Yes, because it was free.
- 6. Was the teacher (Mr. Ben Bar of Kaplan) clear and understandable? 6 students said 'yes.' Mr. Ben Bar made it simple to understand and easy to remember.
- 7. How would you rate Mr. Ben Bar's performance as your SAT Prep Teacher? "5 students said he was excellent." "2 people said he was good." His overall rating was 'excellent.'
- 8. What did you learn from the 10 week Kaplan Sat Prep Course that you did not know before? Some of the answers were: Shortcuts and strategies (4). Multiple choice 1, reading and writing 1 and all sessions 1. Overall, they felt that all the strategies helped them.
- 9. Would you like Mr. Ben Bar to come back and teach other classes her at CABC? "8 students said 'yes' of course."
- 10. Would you come to other events sponsored by Minister Evelyn J. Perkins? Min. Perkins leadership and supervision was excellent. Three people said yes. Two students said 'good'. And two said, 'very good.' The response was very positive. I was rated from good to very good to excellent. I was pleased with the survey and what the students wrote on the surveys for 4-27-13. These were the results of the 4-27-13, students' surveys.

Teacher's Survey for the Kaplan SAT Prep Course Of 4-27-13.

Mr. Ben Bar's thoughts on the SAT Prep Class from February 2, 2013 to April 27, 2013. He was the teacher for this class.

- 1. How was teaching at CABC, under the Doctor of Ministry (Micah)

 Demonstration Project? Mr. Bar's answer was "very fun and exciting."
- 2. Was the place easy to get to? "After I learned about the correct entrance, it was very easy to get to."
- 3. How were the students' performance, behavior and attendance? Explain .Mr. Bar said "Attendance slightly lower than expected. Behavior was pretty good. Performance varied greatly, but on average was good."
- 4. How was Minister Evelyn J. Perkins' Leadership (She is a Doctoral Candidate at NYTS' Doctor of Ministry Program) during the Kaplan SAT prep Course? "She was very hands-on and ultra-communicative."

- 5. Was she willing/helpful, during the 10 weeks program? "Extremely, for both at all times."
- 6. Do you think CABC would be an ideal location for future Kaplan SAT Prep Course? "Yes! Whatever course that CABC believes would serve its population well."
- 7. What was the biggest challenge of the Kaplan SAT Prep Course at CABC? "Achieving results despite very tired, busy students who travel very far."
- 8. What would you change for future Kaplan SAT Prep Classes? "Quicker and more accurate email, address collection (email to teacher before start of course, after being verified.)." I (Min. Perkins) had students address and email addresses. Attendance was taken every day. There was a problem during the class. Students were having problems getting into the Kaplan Online System with their Personal ID Code. Some could get into the system, but some had a problem.
- 9. What would be some suggestion for the at-risk Mentoring Program and Minister Perkins? Mr. Ben Bar said, "Not sure if this was done, but potentially more tie-ins to other aspects of the college process." Mr. Bar was included in the first two sessions, but not all of them. After class was over, I mentored these students for thirty minutes. I wanted them to get to know me rather than, have a lot of interruptions. He was not aware of the other components of the program. He was on a time schedule. He had to start at 9am and finish at 1 or 1:30. He could only stay an additional 15 minutes, because he had time sensitive information had to be mailed off to Kaplan by a certain time. Ben took care of the SAT Prep part of the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry."
- 10. What would you like to see here? Maybe a classroom with enough table space for all students so they can work more comfortably. These were the teacher's thoughts on how "well' the Saturday Kaplan SAT Prep Class went.

Overall, I think Ben loved teaching at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church. You would never know that he was the teacher. He looks like one of the kinds himself. I think this teacher (Mr. Ben Bar) was one of the best teachers we have had at Convent. The students loved and respected him. Now they don't want to take any more courses, because "Ben has already taught us that." Now there are more than 35 students waiting to come in the next Kaplan SAT Prep Course. God was glorified during this entire program. It is extremely gratifying to know that something God gave me was a success and will be

around for years to come. I had a lot of obstacles, but God gave me the grace to go around it. I am deeply touched at the progress these students have made. Some of them are on the honor roll for the first time in their lives, just because they sacrificed 10 Saturdays to learn something that would help them in the long run. What they did not know was that they would be able to use all the strategies in the classroom discussions and on their SAT test. This is the end of Kaplan SAT Prep Course surveys of 4-27-13.

CHAPTER 8 RESEARCH QUESTIONS: HISTORICAL, BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL, AND FAITH-ROOTED ORGANIZING: SOCIAL JUSTICE

Biblical/Theological:

In Mentoring our youth, it is so important for our at-risk youth to have a strong Biblical/Theological Foundation to build upon. The Bible is the "inspired Word of God" that has been handed down to us from generation to generation by the prophets and men of God. His 'Word' is truth everlasting. We have to let our youth know that God loves and cares about them. In the Old Testament, the Jews would teach their children at an early age first to "Love God"- *Shema*. The Book of Deuteronomy 6:4-9 tells us that:

Hear O' Is'-ra-el: The Lord our God is one God:
And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine
heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be
in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy
children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house,
and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down,
and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bin them for a sign upon thine
hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.
And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy
gates. 49

They lived out those 'Words of God' through this prayer. They saw God being manifested in their work. God led me to do this work. In the New Testament, Jesus gives us a perfect example on how we are to treat our children and youth. He said, "suffer little children and come unto me." He wants us to love and help the little children. My main

⁴⁹ All Biblical citations will be according to the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted. The King James is the Bible used in my church (Convent Avenue Baptist Church).

goal was to empower our young people with the "Word of God" so that they can become what God has called them to be. These are our future leaders. That is why it is so important that we prepare our at-risk youth for the journey. And let them know that God will be with them each step of the way.

What inspired me to do this work?

What first inspired me to do this works was when I was working at MS 142 (a Public Junior High School) in the Baychester Area of the Bronx, as a Special Education Teacher. There were a lot of at-risk youth in my classroom, who came from low-income families, emotionally disturbed and in danger of failing and dropping out of school. There were five gangs in MS142. Yet, there were no programs to help these students to succeed in life. It wasn't until I got assaulted and hit in the back that I became aware of the problem. At the time, I was also teaching at the College of New Rochelle in Co-op City. One of my colleagues suggested that I bring in the "Scared Straight Task Force" from Riker's Island to talk to these at-risk youth. They came in and talked to the youth and a lot of lives were changed because "someone cared" about them. The next year, the Gloria Wise Boys and Girls Club came in and set up an After School Program for them. I brought in resources to help the at-risk youth to turn their lives around. Years later, when I was a M.Div. (Masters of Divinity) Student at New York Theological Seminary, I was granted an intern to work with "At-Risk Youth" with U-Turn under the leadership of the Rev. C. Vernon Mason. U-Turn was originally called "Youth Turn." It was a model youth development program operated by the Fund for Community Leadership Development and the New York Theological Seminary under the leadership of Rev. C. Vernon Mason. Its goal was to "support urban youth by leveraging the church, families, neighbors, youth-serving organizations, schools, and the criminal justice system to

promote social change."⁵⁰ Youth Turn operated in 14 churches within the five boroughs of the City of New York. Each site was considered a "safe haven" from street gang members and it was a place where they could meet. U-Turn was able to provide an alternative to incarceration, which included spiritual direction, educational opportunities and employment counseling within the Tri-State Area of the City of New York. But since the closing of U-Turn in 2010, there has not been a program to address the needs of our At-Risk Youth. I was assigned to the Greater Universal Baptist Church from September 2008 to May 2009. I counseled many youth at GUBC. They were from broken homes, foster care, formally-incarcerated youth, and those in danger of failing academically. I worked with one of the U-Turn Facilitator who had been incarcerated and was now out on parole. His personal story helped to turn their lives around. I was their Youth Minister. Some of my duties were to counsel and mentor these young people. When I was asked, "What my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project would be on?" there was no question as to what it would be. Since U-Turn had to close their door due to lack of funding, someone has to pick up the baton and help these children. Why Mentoring At-Risk Youth? Because they are the ones that need the most help in our church.

What are some Biblical Characters in the Bible that our youth can model?

One Biblical model for our youth would be Daniel. Daniel was of noble birth of the royal families of Judah. He was carried off into captivity in 606 B.C. E. The Book of Daniel in the Bible is partly historical relating various circumstances, which befell him and the Jews at Babylon; but it is chiefly prophetic, detailing, visions and prophesies, which foretell numerous important events relative to the four great empires of the world,

⁵⁰ New York Theological Seminary General Catalog, "Youth Turn," 2002-2004, 37.

the coming of the Messiah, the restoration of the Jews, and the Gentiles.⁵¹ This story of Daniel in the Bible will give our youth hope in difficult situations and show them that the at-risk youth can make it in an unjust world. Daniel was royalty in one country and atrisk youth in another.

In Daniel 1: 3-4, 17-20 tells that he is taken into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, the King. Daniel was a young boy. One might say that he was an at-risk youth because he was taken away from his family. Daniel was young, intelligent and skillful in wisdom. The "one" God thought was good. The King asked the master of his eunuchs to bring certain children of Israel, without blemish to the court to be taught and trained in the language of Chaldeans. Daniel and the three Hebrew boys (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) were brought to the King's court. Daniel loves the Lord. He refused to compromise his faith and custom of his religion. As a result, Daniel and the three Hebrew Boys were thrown into the fiery furnace because they disobeyed Nebuchadnezzar's Law. Nebuchadnezzar had set the furnace seven times hotter than before. God saved them. The king had to admit that God was God. The most important point to tell our at-risk youth is that Daniel and the three Hebrew Boys had "Faith in God" and remembered what they were taught at an early age. They were in a strange land and did not know what was going to happen to them. Their faith was unwavering. They had to hold on to it to guide them all the way. There are times when God will use a situation to teach others a lesson in humanity. In the end, God let Nebuchadnezzar know

⁵¹ Matthew Henry, *Mathew Henry's Commentary*, *Daniel 1*, http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/daniel/1.html (accessed December 23, 2013).

that Daniel and the three Hebrew boys were His. God had protected the three Hebrew Boys even though they were in a foreign country. God was there with them all the way.

Finally, this biblical story of Daniel shows the at-risk youth that it takes preparation. We have to instill in them at an early age that they have prepare themselves for the Blessings God has in store for them. Just like the Jews, they started teaching their children at an early age to "Love God" and put Him as part of their lives. God could be seen in every aspect of their lives. They might be young, but the knowledge that they gained at an early age will not be wasted. God was preparing his people for the journey. Our churches can help by teaching them the Word of God and encouraging our youth to take advantage of this time and don't waste it playing video games. There will come a time when we will be put to use. Daniel was faithful to God. And God rewarded Daniel in the end with wisdom, gifts, and talents. If they continue to "hold on to their faith," God will reward them as well. These are a few examples our at-risk youth can "take away" from this story of Daniel and the three Hebrew Boys. But there are many more biblical stories in the Bible that our youth can model and give them hope for a brighter day. These Biblical stories will encourage our youth that they can make it. Sure there will be storms and difficulties in life, but if they put their trust in God, He will see them through.

How my work has inspired other in the ministry? My Doctor of Ministry

This Demonstration Project has inspired ministries, community organizations and Kaplan to further the ministry. It has been replicated three times in Harlem and twice in the Washington Heights area of Manhattan by Kaplan and Councilman Robert Jackson. One of the organizations that my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project has helped is the "Mentoring Ministry" at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church. When I first started my demonstration project at my home church (CABC), the Mentoring Ministry was one of

my greatest opponents. I was encouraged by Dr. Lundy to talk to them and see what is that they needed me to do. What were some of the things that they wanted to do, but had not gotten around to do? They wanted to know what I was doing and what position in their ministry was I trying to get? They even wanted a copy of my proposal. I shared with them that my demonstration project on "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" would help the at-risk youth in our church to be better prepared for the college admissions process and level the playing field for them. When there is opposition the love of God breaks all barriers. Every affair I invited them to come and participate (e.g. 1st Educational Awareness Summit, the College Fair and Financial Aid Scholarship Workshops). At the 1st Educational Awareness Summit, March 1, 2013, one of their members saw the "vision." She said that she understand the need of our at-risk youth more clearly than before. She would like to be included in the next one. This individual also attended the "College Fair/Financial Aid/Scholarship Workshop," which was held on October 19, 2013. She was so impressed that she went back to the Mentoring Ministry and told them about the Financial Aid Workshop. On March 8, 2014, the Mentoring Ministry will bring back Deacon Pamela Johnson (from the Pilgrim Church in Harlem, New York) to do a workshop on Scholarship, Grants and Financial Aid. I met Deacon Pamela Johnson in June 2013, at P.S. 160, an Elementary-Public School in Co-op City. She is a School Board President and Community Activist. Pamela Johnson ran for New York City Council District 12, as a Democratic candidate in the summer of 2013. She comes with impeccable credentials. Her daughter's college tuition was \$150,000. After applying for grants and scholarships, her daughter did not have to pay a dime. The first time I was asked to speak was at a "Mother's Day Brunch," in May 2013. Then I was

asked to come back at the closing to speak to the Parent and Leadership Council of P.S. 160. The President of P.S. 160 had read my newly released book entitled *Overcoming* Back Surgery and Finding My Way Back. Because my book dealt with educational issues in District 12, Mrs. Rodriguez thought it would be a good idea for me to talk to the parents about "Charter Schools vs. Public Schools." It is this PTA Conference that I met the "Scholarship Lady," aka Pamela Johnson. I had invited her to come to CABC to speak at the African American Experience College Fair on October 19, 2013 and to share her story with our youth. The African American Experience is another Ministry that I have inspired as well. They hosted the College Fair/Career Day in October for the students. I was given an opportunity to work with them in the planning and the implementation of the College Fair. Pictures of the event can be seen in Appendix F of this demonstration project. Deacon Pamela Johnson or the "Scholarship Lady" has made such a difference that she has been asked to come back again. I have been asked to partner with a Harlem Boys and Girls Club and other ministries in the church. Now that it has been implemented, high school students cannot wait for the new session to begin. Because of the "buzz" about my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project entitled "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry." I have created a not-for-profit organization called Center for At-Risk Youth, International, Inc. to continue the vision God has given me to help these children reach their full potential in life. Each one of my at-risk students had a story to tell about this "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" and how it helps them in some way. Lives were transformed and enriched by this Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project.

Historical:

The Historical aspect of education has been a very important part of my life. Education can be traced from the beginning of mankind to now. Education is one of my passions. Being raised in Alabama during the Segregation and Jim Crow Era, African Americans were not afforded the same educational opportunities as Whites. When I was in elementary school and high school in Alabama, the district would give the Black schools used text books and the White schools got the new ones. But I'm thankful to God that we had very good teachers, who went out of their way to Xerox material for us to use. They tried to prepare us for the real world. They knew that some of us would go to college and others would be going to trade school. I had my challenges, but God brought me through. I worked my way through college. It wasn't easy, but I made it. That is why I am so passionate about education and our at-risk youth. I strongly believe if you prepare our youth with the necessary skills, strategies and resources they can succeed in life. My first inclination was that there should be more educational programs to empower our young people. My professors Dr. Lindenbaum and Dr. De Lieo encouraged me to go into teaching. Three weeks after graduating from Fordham University with a Masters in Adult Education and Human Resources with Emphasis in Leadership, I started teaching Adult Education at the College of New Rochelle in Co-op City. It was a chance to give something back to society. Some of my students did not have their high school diploma. They were working on their GED. Then I was asked by District 11 to teach 8th grade Earth Science and Home and Career. I was able to help these students. There were five gangs at this school. While teaching at a junior high school (MS 142) in the Bronx, I saw first-hand youth who were in danger academic failure and social-economic problems. There was a need for more educational programs to address anti-social behavior among

our students at MS142. After I was injured, I asked the "Scared Straight Task Force" from Riker's Island to come and speak to our Special Ed. Students. Their lives were turned around. "They got the message. If you don't stop their behavior, you will do the time." The next year, the school brought in Gloria Wises' Boys and Girls Club to encourage and motivate these young people. In the fall of 1998, I started teaching at 199x, an elementary school, in the South Bronx.

At the Shakespeare School 199x, I saw first-hand the need for more after-school programs to prepare these students for the next grade and the state standardized. The first year I taught Project Read and Literacy. I would take students out of the classroom and work with them in small groups. Their reading level went up. I remember one of my teachers told me that my group went from level 1 and 2 to 4—with level 4 meeting the state requirements. Some of the strategies that I learned while teaching Higher Education, I was able to modify and bring down to the little people. When we learn the basic skills and strategies, our students can succeed. And it starts with mastering these skills in the lower grades; so that they won't have a problem in the higher grades.

What I saw as the problem for At-Risk Youth?

Our young people are going through a lot these days. Some of them are in danger of academic failure, deprived of educational opportunities, in danger of dropping out of school, and are ill prepared for the College Admissions process. My main focus is to "Mentor" these at-risk youth and prepare them for the college admissions process. And it starts in the lower grades. According to the New York Times "New York City Graduation Rate Remains Steady" by E.C. Gogolak "the Class of 2012...graduation rate did fall slightly to 64.7 percent from 65.5 percent in 2011, but not so much as had been

anticipated."⁵² Mr. Gogolak states that "everybody predicted our graduation rate would fall precipitously, and that did not happen." On the other hand,

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said, the 2012 rate is a 39 percent increase, since 2005...The dropout rate has also fallen significantly over the same period, to 11.4 percent from 22 percent...'More students are graduating better prepared for success than ever before, Mr. Bloomberg said.' But even with the higher rate, most students, according to the data, are not prepared for college or a career..."College Readiness Statistics called 'aspirational performance measures' released on Monday by the New York State Education Department show that only 38.4 percent of New York City high school students who graduated in June are considered ready for college or a career." [However]...according to Merry H. Tisch, the Chancellor of the State Board of Regents, believe that the rate may be stable even with the increased rigor, but stable doesn't equal success. This is an ongoing tragedy. And sadly, she added, most of those students, who graduate aren't ready for college or job that provides family-sustaining wages." ⁵³

These statistics tells us that we have a lot of work to do. That is why it was so important for me to mentor these at-risk youth and help them to bring up their SAT scores so that they can be better prepared to meet the challenges. The Saturday Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course fills all of our expectations. These high school students were helped by this Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project on "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry." Now they will be more informed and prepared for the College Admissions Process. My "Mentoring Program" has been replicated three times in Harlem and in Washington Heights by Councilman Robert Jackson in collaboration with the Kaplan K-12 Learning Services, May, 2013. God gave me a vision of Test Prep to help students find their way back and it should be replicated in all of our churches around the city. This is what I saw as being the problem for our high school students.

⁵² E. C. Gogolak, "New York City Graduation Rate Remains Steady", *New York Times* June 17, 2013, http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/18/nyregion/new-york-city-graduation-rate-remains-steady.html?_r=0 (accessed February 23, 2014).

⁵³ Ibid.

What inspired me to have a Saturday Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Class as a part of my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project?

I remember when was studying for my teacher's exam (LAST and ATSW). Kaplan helped me with "test prep." I scored very high on the LAST exam. So when I ran across Kaplan K-12 Learning Services I knew that Kaplan would be the right Test Prep Agency to equip them with the skills and strategies that they can use in the classroom and on their SAT Test. We were able to bring them in to teach a 10 week SAT Prep Course to at-risk high school students in CABC and the Hamilton Height Area of Harlem. There were 14 high school students enrolled in my Doctor of Ministry's Mentoring At-Risk Youth Program. At the end of 10 weeks you could see the result in their practice SAT test scores. The rigorous program helped all of these students in every area of their academic school work. Their grades went up and some of them made the "Honor Roll." Now parents are asking when am I going to have another SAT Prep Class. My new not-forprofit called "Center for At-Risk International, Inc" will be sponsoring SAT classes for students to continue to prepare for the college admission test by raising their SAT scores. Overall, these students will be better prepared in high school and in college. This is what inspired me to develop and implement an SAT Prep Course as one of my components of my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project.

What was the success of the 'Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry held at CABC?

I was very surprised at the success of the program. I knew that they would be helped. Every Saturday after the instructional time, I would keep the students back for 30 minutes to talk to them about college and where they see themselves 5 to 10 years from now. We also talked about believing in themselves and building self-esteem. The open discussions help them to believe in themselves. It gave them a new sense of purpose. We

had 14 students from all across the tri-state area, New Jersey, upstate New York, A. Philip Randolph Campus High School located on the City College Campus, and Far Rockaway, Queens. They would travel an hour to get to this "Free" Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course. When I look back on this experience, I am happy that Dr. Eleanor Moody-Shepherd and Dr. Peter Heltzel asked me to come into this Doctor of Ministry (Micah) Program in Leadership, Faith-Rooted Organizing and Social Justice. Because of the journey, I was able to help the "least of these." When I started out I was just trying to get it done the best way I could. But God took over and He blessed me with an awesome vision to help these at-risk youth. I did not realize the magnitude of the Saturday Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course. After the Saturday Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course was over, I called all of these students and their families together for a Closing Dinner. I also invited Councilman Robert Jackson to come and say a few words. First, we had a Praise and Worship Service. There were encouraged by the "Preached Word of God." I preached a sermon on "Jesus has a word of hope for you, tonight." The text was taken from the Second Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians, 4:4-10. In the middle of the program, I asked students to come up and share what they have gained from the program. I was totally shocked at their testimony. I was so happy that my advisor, the Rev. Dr. Nancy B. Fields, from New York Theological Seminary was able to attend the Closing Dinner and was present at the affair. She enjoyed the event. It became clear what had happened. Students got up from their seats and gave a testimony. They shared with the congregation what they learned and how it helped them in their classroom work. Their grades went up during the spring of 2013. They began to believe in themselves. First, they had to imagine and visualize that it was possible. Then, believe that it was

possible for them to raise their academic scores and self-esteem. Their interest in college became real. Their SAT scores went up. They were not afraid to try. I could see the "transformation" taking place in their lives. Parents also got up from their seats and shared what they had learned by attending some of the sessions in room 403 of the education building. Kaplan's SAT Teacher, Ben Bar, shared with the church that this program was very rigorous. "He did not baby them." He talked about the challenges and what had happened in the classroom. Kaplan's Regional Representative, Mrs. Jane Berkowitz also gave a testimony that the program had been replicated three times in Harlem and in the Washington Heights as well. I was touched. Then Councilman Jackson talked to the students about being prepared for college and how much it would cost them if they went to an Ivy League college. He suggested that they go to CUNY colleges and then do their Masters at an Ivy League College. It took Councilman Jackson two hours driving in the rain to get to CABC. Councilman Jackson was very supportive of my project. If he could not make it, he would send one of his representatives to attend my events. Judging from the feedback and testimonies during the Closing Dinner, the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" showed me that I was "on to something.' All of the results of the four practice SAT test, showed how much they gained from the first day of class to the end. The "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" was a success. Now I have a waiting list of more than 35 high school students waiting for the next Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course. Because it was "Free," the students who really need help got it through my demonstration project. All I can say now is "To God be the Glory!"

What can our At-Risk Youth take away from the Biblical Story of Joseph in Genesis 39: 4-5?

The Biblical Story of Joseph in the Bible is a perfect example of an at-risk youth who was thrown in a pit and sold into slavery in Egypt. I truly believe that Joseph's story will give our at-risk youth hope and encourage them to trust God and He will see them through. Joseph in the Bible was the son of Jacob and Rachel. His brothers were jealous of him because his father loved him more because of his mother. They plotted to get rid of him because God blessed him with the gift of visions and prophesies. Joseph would often tell his brothers about the dreams. So they plotted to get rid of him. As a result, Joseph was abandoned and thrown into a pit. He was rescued and sold into slavery for twenty pieces of silver. Yet, he did not give up. Joseph was brought down into Egypt, in Genesis 39:3 "And His master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did prosper in his hands." As a result, the Lord blessed the Egyptian House because of Joseph. God blessed all that he had in his house and in the fields. Even though Joseph was a slave and at-risk, God protected him in this house and whatever he did. Joseph was a perfect example of an at-risk youth. He was abandoned by his brothers and left for dead. He was sold into slavery in a foreign land, yet God protected him. God protected him while he was in Potiphar's house. God blessed Joseph with gifts and talents. The biblical story of Joseph will encourage our at-risk youth to trust in God. Even though you might not see Him, He is there in the mist of your situation. This story shows how God raises you up from nothing and bestows unseen blessings upon you. The very same brothers that tried to kill him, God made a way so that he would be the one to save the family in the days of famine. Joseph was eventually reunited with his father Jacob, who thought he was dead, and his brothers. Just as God prepared Joseph for the "Call"

the church has a responsibility to help our at-risk youth today. It's not only the teachers' and parents' responsibility, but rather the church should lend a hand as well, because these are going to be our leaders one day. They have to be prepared spiritually as well for the journey. Their parents and pastors will not be around all the time, they will have to know who to call on in the time of trouble; teaching them that God will answer their prayers. It might be yes, no or delayed, but God answers all prayers and He will be with them. It also teaches the at-risk youth that God is in control. I think that these high school students could really see themselves in this story. They are confronted with many issues in life. It's good to know that God is able to bless you, no matter where you are in life or what situation you might be confronted with, God will fight your battle. The battle is not yours, but God's. These are the kind of encouraging words our students need to hear and be reminded of. These are some of the encouraging words our at-risk youth can take away from this biblical story of Joseph in Genesis 39. I wanted to encouraged them to "hold on to God's unchanging hands and He will see then through the difficult time of their lives."

Faith-Rooted Organizing Social Justice:

God is concerned about the welfare of His people, the "Least of These." In my

Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project on "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep

Ministry" the least of these were the "At-Risk Youth" who were ill-prepared for the

college admissions process. For many years this problem had not been addressed in

CABC. We have many youth programs in the church such as: Children's Saturday
Educational Program (from 5 years old to 12 years old), Youth and Children's Church and

Chosen Youth Program. But none of them address the issue of SAT or Regents exams to

help our students prepared for college or the state standardized exams. Nor are there any

college enrichment programs in the church. We do have a Progressive Ministry, which awards scholarship to students going to college, seminary and graduate school. The Chosen Youth Program has various workshops for kids on various topics. But this is the first time that a program like this has been implemented at CABC. It is so important for our Faith-Rooted Organization and the church to take a stand on social justice issues concerning our at-risk youth. We as a church and Faith-based organization have an obligation to help these youth to level the playing field. We must let our at-risk students know that "Education is the way out of poverty." Of course there is no Free Ride! Our students must apply themselves too; take advantage of the opportunities that are given to them. When I started this project, I had to stand in the lobby of the educational building and recruit students. I was there four nights a week for three weeks from 4 to 7 P.M., during the month of January to get students to come in at take the class. The cost of the SAT Prep Course was \$300.00 per student. Times were tight and a lot of parents, even in Convent could not afford it. The cost of a Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course ranges from \$699 to nearly a thousand dollars per student. Kaplan gave us a discount because we were in the faith community and it was the first time a program like this was offered in the Harlem Community outside the public schools. It wasn't until a couple from the youth church donated the first six hundred dollars that I was able to offer a scholarship. I recruited 8 students from CABC. I shared with Rev. Lettesome that there were some scholarships available for these high school students. He made an announcement and encouraged them to take advantage of the Saturday Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep class. As a result 2 more students enrolled in the SAT class. There were 14 students enrolled in the Saturday Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Class. When I was doing my demonstration project

there was a group from the neighborhood, who asked the church what types of educational programs do they have to address the need of our youth. According to Deacon Kevin Davenport, Co-Chair of the Board of Deacons and Supervisor of the Children and Youth Church in CABC said, "We did not have one, so we took yours (Saturday SAT Prep)."It was at that moment that I realized that God had given me this "Mentoring At-Risk Youth Program" to help to empower these young people who may need of a little extra help in preparing for college.

What inspired me to do this type of work for the Faith-Rooted Organizing and Social Justice?

What inspired me to do this type of work is my passion for social justice. I strongly believe that the church has a responsibility to help these children who are in danger of academic failure and dropping out of school. Some of these students come from low-income families, who are just trying to make ends meet; and sometimes they don't. We must "Break the Cycle of At-Risk Youth." Jesus wants us to help these children and not turn our backs on them. The church should be reaching out and helping them. I like what Rev. Dr. Eleanor Moody-Shepherd once said, while she was preaching a sermon at the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Vernon, N.Y., in the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Rose Niles-McCrary on Jan, 22, 2006, "too busy being Holy and not allowing themselves to hear the cry of the people!" ⁵⁴That is why it is so important for us to hear their cry and help the "least of these." The least of these are our at-risk youth. In the Gospel of Matthews 25: 40, 45-46 Jesus was concerned about the "least of these."

⁵⁴ Nancy B. Fields, "Reaching People/Changing Lives: A look at how the People of Faith can Participate with the Deaf Community in improving Parent-Child Relationships," DMin diss., New York Theological Seminary, 2006.

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me;" v45 goes on to say "Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye die it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And v46 "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal."

Jesus wants us to help these at-risk youth. We have to remind ourselves that "only things we do for Christ will last." And it was a life changing event for our at-risk youth. A Mentoring Programs like this can give our students an edge to achieve their goals and aspirations in life. The church and the community can help too. We can build so that partnerships and coalitions with people of faith can participate in preparing our at-risk youth with integrity, contributing our unique gifts, resources strategically to the broader movement for social justice. This is one way that we can bring the church, community, politicians, and social organizations together to collaborate on social justice issues that affect our at-risk youth today. I strongly feel that the African-American church should support our young people. It's doable. "With God anything is possible. God has called me to help these young people and do the work of the ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Just doing God's will is inspiration enough to carry out His master plan for at-risk youth.

What I did to change their lives?

These at-risk youth lives were changed because "someone cared about them." When I was crafting the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry," one of the people who helped me to see what these students needed was the principal of A. Philip Randolph Campus High School located on the City College Campus. Mr. Fanning was concerned about our youth. And he said, "If you really want to help these students,

they need College SAT Prep, College Essays and writing. If you can offer it free then they will be knocking down your door to get in." When I heard those words, I was inspired to offer a "SAT Prep" class to help them raise their SAT scores and be better prepared for the college admissions process. The second way I changed their lives was through "Mentoring." I was available during the week for counseling and on Saturday after the Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Class. After the program was over I set up a group of volunteer/mentors to counsel them. I checked on them occasionally to see how they were doing in school. For those who did not attend my church, I would call them on the telephone or email them to ask about their progress in school. This meant a lot to them. Even when one of my students father was in the hospital dying of cancer, I reached out to her via phone and email. She was touched. I received emails from Mr. Fanning the principal of A. Philip Randolph Campus High School, thanking me for helping his high school students. The third thing I did was to have a Closing Dinner (Graduation) to encourage and acknowledge what they had done during those 10 weeks of class. Certificates were passed out during the Closing Dinner. It meant a lot to them. It was all positive. I also helped the parents; by bring the "Scholarship Lady," Mrs. Pamela Johnson to talk to them about Grant, Scholarship and Financial Aid. She was a big success. She was asked to come back again to do another Financial Aid Scholarship Workshop with the youth of Convent. These are some of the things I did to change their lives. It will take a few years to see the total impact of the program, for now we know that their SAT scores have increased and their grades have increased. I like to think I had a little something to do with that. As Hillary Rodham Clinton would say "It takes a village to raise a child." When we come together with one goal in mind, we can make it happen. I

do believe that "lives were changed" by my "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" demonstration project. Last but not least, I taught them to believe in God; that Jesus loves them and cares about them. Even though they might be going through difficulty, God will be there to fight their battles. During the "mentoring program," I preached three sermons to encourage these young people. After each one a pre- and post-questionnaire was passed out and filled out by the students and their parents. I prayed for them and what they were faced with. God provided the resources to help them. I encouraged them. I gave them Biblical examples to live by. In the Gospel According to Matthews 5:1-9 Jesus taught his disciple on how to live a Godly life. In Matthew 5: 1-9, Jesus seeing the multitude, went up into a mountain and began to teach is disciples, and the people. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus was concerned about the welfare of the "least of these." Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, performed miracles and gave many examples on how to treat one another. This is why it is so important for churches and community organizations to come together to discuss ways to educate our children and prepare them for the future. We have to start somewhere. Teaching our young people about honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, and being fair can be a good start in life. Jesus taught his disciples and the multitudes on many topics and the Golden Rule was one of them in the Gospel According to Matthew 7:7-12. Jesus gave his disciples and the world a model to pattern our lives after. The Bible will give our at-risk youth the encouragement and wisdom they need, when life gets difficult and hard to handle. Judging from the surveys, students were helped by this story. One student said she could see herself in the story. This is what we want children

to do—see themselves in the story. This story will help our at-risk youth know that God loves unconditionally. God loved them so much that He gave His only begotten son, Jesus, to save men from sin. I would tell them that Jesus suffered, bled, and died for them on Calvary and rose again on the 3rd Day with all powers in His hands. We have to let the young people know that the church and the community are here for them.

Finally, I think it is so important for African-American Churches to let our "At-Risk Youth" know that their people were in slavery until God delivered them from racism and segregation. God will do the same for them when times are so difficult to handle. We should let them know where God has brought them from. We have to tell our story. It was not easy for our Civil Rights leaders, but God took them through. It was not easy for Jesus, but he had a job to do for his Father. As church, faith-rooted organizations and community leaders, we have a job to do. We have to be there for our youth and not abandon them. We have to do what we can to help them along the way. And I believe that this is what Jesus wants us to do. We have to remind them that "they have a job to do as well." It starts with staying in school and "Get[ting] that learning in their heads, no one can take it away from you."55 I was raised in Alabama. My teachers would go out of their way to help us. They kept us up-to-date on issues that affected our lives. My parents (John P. Perkins II and Gladys M. Perkins) cared about their 12 children. They did not have the opportunities I had. Back in the sixties, segregation was still going on. Public schools were segregated. It was separate, but not equal. Men of Color could not go further than the 9th grade. They had to leave Alabama and go to the Northern States to finish their education. It wasn't until 1954's Supreme Court Case Brown vs. the Board of

⁵⁵ Perkins, *Overcoming Back Surgery*, 12.

Education that things begin to change. My father went back to school and got his GED. Then he went on to college. He earned two degrees (one in Pastoral Care and Pastoral Excellence from Birmingham Bible College). So education is so very important to me. I want our children to have the necessary tools and resources they need to succeed in life. My father, the Rev. John P. Perkins would tell us "I don't care if you are fifty years old…you are going to finish high school." These words were instilled in my life. We have to pass on to our children that education is important too. They need to study the Word of God and keep up with their academics.

"Education is the only way out of poverty." I truly believe if our young people can apply some of the principles to their lives, they can come out on top and be successful. These are some of the ways I have changed their lives through Christ. I did not do it alone. God showed me what to do and I applied His principle. And that made all the difference in these young people's lives. The Faith Community can help our at-risk youth as well. Just stepping out on "Faith" and "Trusting God" has made all the difference in these young people's lives. And for that I am grateful to God for giving me the "vision" to encourage and motivate our at-risk youth to go to college so that they will be able one day to take their rightful place in society. And be a blessing to others as well.

⁵⁶ Ibid., 11.

CHAPTER 9 MINISTERIAL COMPENTENCIES

Ministerial Competencies were important to me. One of the reasons why I wanted to go to New York Theological Seminary (NYTS) was to improve in various areas of the ministry. I remember when I was just starting out. I had just gotten the second "Call" to the ministry. My pastor at the time (1999) was the Rev. Dr. Clarence P. Grant. The Senior Pastor of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church. He suggested that I go to NYTS. "

"It would be good for the ministry and you will be able further your ministry." ⁵⁷ I am so glad that I followed his instructions. The Site Team for the Doctor of Ministry Project entitled "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry," was developed in February, 2012, shortly after the beginning of the Doctor of Ministry's Transformational Leadership, Community Organizing, and Social Justice Program. When I was asked to select people from my church or who will be able to help me with my program, God showed me the people to ask to be a part of my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project. My site team members are: Shelia Brandenberg (Trustee and CPA), Deacon Joseph Hand (Deacon and Trustee), Dr. Lola Langely (Director of Sunday school Teachers and Founder of Healing Hope Ministry) and Sister Erline Richardson (Children and youth Ministry of CABC). Each one of my site team members has various gifts and talents that would be an asset to the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep

⁵⁷ Consultation with Pastor Clarence P. Grant, Pastor of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church, Harlem, November, 1999. He is now deceased.

Ministry." My site team came together on many occasions and discussed the thirteen Ministerial Competences that were listed. My first meeting was in February, 2012. The site team and I met every month to discuss issues concerning the project. They attended every event. Some meetings were held after the 11am services. There were many conversations via e-mail. If they all could not be there, a representative from the site team was there to oversee the project. The first four or five months focused on the "Ministerial Competences" that they have to discuss and come up with the one I had to improve. In some areas I succeeded in other areas they wanted to continue (see Appendix A, Proposal for Ministerial Competences). Some of their suggestions were:

That I should go down and participate in the Children and youth Church on the Second and Third Sundays. I started there in May of 2012 and continued to serve to the present day.

The second thing they wanted me to do was to take up "Voice and Diction." I have been working with Dr. Gregory H. Hopkins, Director of Music and he is a voice coach as well. He has many gifts and talents that would be helpful to the ministry. Dr. Gregory Hopkins has an extensive resume: Minister of Music for Harlem's Convent Avenue Baptist Church for more than a quarter of a century; Artistic Director of Harlem Opera Theater; Music Director for the Harlem Jubilee Singers and Cocolo—a Japanese Gospel Choir; he was once nominated for a Grammy and is currently preparing a CD featuring Ambassadors from several counties of the U.S.; and he has recently been appointed Chair of the Vocal Department of Howard University (DC). As a singer, pianist, organist, Choral conductor, teacher and clinician. Dr. Hopkins has traveled throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Middle East with recent performances

including, The Cervantes Festival (Mexico), Orvieto & Umbria Festival (Italy) and Victoria Festival (Spain). As one can see, Dr. Hopkins has an extensive music career. It is an honor for Dr. Gregory Hopkins to teach me vocal training. It is an introduction to the fundamental principles of vocal production and it helps to acquaint me with the necessary tools to develop vocally. The focus on these sessions will be on the basic instructions: breathing, breath control and vocal exercises. It is going to help me in my delivery of sermons and praise/worship experience as well. I have attended a session with the music director of the church in his spare time. Our sessions will be ongoing. Working with Dr. Hopkins is an honor which I do not take likely. To get someone with his credentials and experience will help me in all areas of the ministry.

The Ministerial Competencies that I chose for development were: Preaching and Community Organizing. For Preaching I said that I would attend Preaching Conferences and audit one preaching class and preach 3 sermons for at-risk youth. It was done.

Conferences:

I attended several conferences with the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York. On November 18, 2013 I became a member of the organization.

On September 13-15, 2013, I attended Christian Education Conference, held at my church (the Convent Avenue Baptist Church, in Harlem) for three nights. The course I took was on: "Leadership for Ministers," taught by Rev. Dr. Edward O. Williamson.

The theme of Christian Educational Week was: "Spiritual Maturity: Walking in Authority, Being Who God Says We Are." Pete 2:1-9. Pastor Williams brought facilitators in from all over the country to teach various classes of the ministry. Rev. Dr. Elliott Cuff serves as the Dean of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, National Baptist Convention. He was the speaker for the Plenary Session of the week.

There were many facilitators such as: Rev. Dr. Carl Washington, Rev. Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Rev. Dr. Allen Paul Weaver, Jr., Dr. Gregory H. Hopkins and Rev. Dr. Shellie Sampson.

The facilitator/teacher for the Associate Ministers was Dr. Edward O. Williamson. From Wednesday at 6:45 to 9pm Friday, Dr. Edward O. Williamson was our teacher. Dr. Williamson is the Pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church in White Plains, New York. He serves as the Assistant Director of Christian Education and Dean of the Central Hudson Baptist District Association. He is currently Assistant State Dean for the Empire missionary Baptist State Convention of New York. Our first session focused on: "The Making of a Minister/Servant Leader." Our text book was: *The Making of a Leader* by Dr. J. Robert Clinton. There were three key questions:

- What does it mean to be a leader?
- What does it take to become the leader God wants you to be?
- What are the process, cost and the result?

In the three day sessions, the key points focus on Six Development Phases.

Phase I – Sovereign Foundations is where you get to know God. Faith is being established. Learning is the basic or foundation. God is working through family, environment and historical events in life. God is developing His leader by laying foundations in his/her life. God is making you get in place. The primary lesson is to learn to respond positively and take advantage of what God has laid in the foundation for them.

Phase II – Inter-Life Growth. You are growing in your own faith. The Leader learns the importance of praying and hearing God. As he/she grows in discernment, understanding, and obedience, God put them to the test. These early tests are crucial experiences that God uses to prepare the leader for the next steps in leadership.

Phase III— Ministry Maturity. The emerging Leader reaches out to others. God is leading you. It is at time that God allows you to experiment with spiritual gifts, even though he/she may not know what this doctrine is. We have to get training in order to be more effective. You are growing in service (i.e., teaching you.) God uses these opportunity to use you.

Phase IV– Life Maturity. You are growing in Grace. In Phase IV, the leader has identified and is using his or her spiritual gifts in a ministry that is satisfying. In other words, they have found their niche. They allow God to use them. Their main goal is to please God in everything they do.

Phase V – Convergence or Conversion. Phase V is where God moves the leader into a role that matches their gifts and talents, so that their ministry is maximized. I just one would say "Maximize your Potential," even in the Ministry. When you see the finished product, life and ministry come together. Then you will know that God is working in your ministry. You have a Bi-Vocational Ministry.

Phase -VI- "The After Glow" or Celebration. Phase VI is the fruit of a lifetime of ministry and growth culminates in an era of recognition and indirect influence at broader levels. People will seek you out for your abilities and wisdom. Dr. Williamson thinks that "Leaders in the afterglow" have built up a life time of contacts and continue to exert influence in these relationships that he or she has developed. Other will seek them out because of their consistent track record in following God. In the end, Dr. Williamson believes that "There is not recognizable development takes in phase VI other than to allow a lifetime of ministry to reflect the Glory of God and to honor His faithfulness over a lifetime of development."

This class replaces the preaching class that I said I would take. However, I have taken a Preaching class with Dr. Edward Hunt of NYTS (summer of 2007). He is one of the renowned Professors of Preaching at NYTS. My site team was not aware that I had already taken several classes with Dr. Hunt. I took two classes under Dr. Hunt: "Praise and Worship" and "Preaching under Construction." This class I took during Christian Education Week Conference at CABC. This class helped me to become a better leader in the church and taught us how to be better prepared to be preachers of the Gospel. During the implementation of my demonstration project, I preached three sermons to at-risk youth (see Appendix E). To let them know that there were at-risk youth in the Bible as well. They made it by "Trusting God."

Preached Three Sermons

Sermon# 1. The first sermon was preached at St. John's Baptist Church in Harlem where the Rev. Dr. John Scott is the Senior Pastor. I was asked to preach in the "Lenten Season, February, 2013 at 7pm. The sermon was entitled "Getting Closer to God This Lenten Season." Text; Matthews 4; 1-4. I was asked by Rev. Dr. John Scott to preach on: Dedication, Consecration and Cleansing. (See Appendix E). When I first arrived, I sat down with Dr. Scott and he went over some things that was happening in his church with the youth and he felt that I would be able to encourage the 'at-risk' in his church as well. I shared with him my demonstration project "Mentoring At-Risk Youth and Preparing Them for the College Admissions Process." I also mentioned that we were sponsoring a "Kaplan SAT Prep Course for the at-risk youth of the Hamilton Heights area for 10 weeks. He asked to send one of his students to the class. Dr. Scott gave me numbers of individuals that may be of service to my "Mentoring Project." Before I took the pulpit to preach, I was asked to sit in on a conference with one of his parents who had come into

the church with a personal family issue. Dr. Scott and I prayed and counseled this young man. He was supposed to come to the SAT prep class on Saturday, but did not show up. That Monday I called Dr. Scott and I found out that he had been arrested two days later. He encouraged me to continue the program because it is really needed. According to Dr. John Scott there has not been anything for the kids since Rev. Dr. C. Vernon Mason's U-Turn program. He felt that this type of program was needed to help our children in school and go on to college. Dr. Scott is a graduate of the Doctor of Ministry Program here at New York Theological Seminary. After I preached the sermon Dr. Scott gave a quick review of the sermon and several of his deacons as well. He said, "You did fine. You don't have to keep reading from the paper, but rather 'speak from the heart.' We could fill the power of the Holy Spirit."

Sermon #2. The second sermon was preached at Convent Avenue Baptist Church on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 6:30pm. All the students that attended the Saturday Kaplan SAT Prep Class were asked to attend. When we arrived at the church, the Harlem Boys and Girls Club were just finishing up their program. There were parents and students present. I was asked to "Pray for the Kids." (See Appendix F.)

As you can see there are about 30 students of all ages in the circle. I am in "Red Clergy" attire. I asked them to get in a circle and asked what they needed prayer for?

Some needed prayer that they pass their Regents Exam, SAT, help in school, or prayer for their families. This set the tone for our worship service. We started off with "Praise and Worship," prayer, scripture, song then the purpose of the occasion (See copy of Program in Appendix E). My Second Sermon was entitled "Who will Stand Up for you? Taken from Daniel 1:3-4, 17-21. This sermon was about David and Goliath. (See sermon

in Appendix E). These were words of encouragement. Students were blessed by the "Praise and Worship" Service.

At the beginning of the "Mentoring At-Risk" program, students were required to attend three worship services and mentoring sessions after class. It was well attended. At the end of the program, students filled out a "Pre and Post" Questionnaire (see Appendix D) that would help me to see if they were helped by the encouraging words and the worship service.

Response to the Pre and Post Questionnaire for At-Risk Sermon #2 Given 4/23/13. "10 Students evaluations form given out and 3 returned."

Question #1 was: "What do you need God to do in your life? Here are some of the answers:

- Keep me focused,
- Pass my SAT & Regents Exams,
- Keep me in successful moment
- To be successful.

Question #2. What was the take away from David and Goliath's Sermon entitled "Who will stand up for you?" Some of the comments were:

- "No matter how big the situation, you can overcome it!"
- God helped them defeat the strong giant.
- Shepherd Boy took down the giant with God's help.

Overall. They felt that God would help them overcome any situation.

Question #3. What can the church do?

- Help the students to understand that they have a purpose.
- Encourage them to participate in events and stay away from negative things in life.
- Have more youth and outreach programs.

• Overall, the students felt that the church should have more after-school or outreach programs for them.

Question #4 "What encouraging words did you hear tonight? Here are some of the answers

- The first person said, "Don't underestimate yourself."
- The second person said, "God got your back! Jesus will stand-up for you."
- The third person said, "Jesus will stand for you, have your back and fight your battle."
- Overall, all three of these students felt that they were encouraged by the message.
- "Jesus will be with them and stand up for them.

Question # 5 – What can Convent do? Here are some answers

- The first person said that "Have more youth programs in the community.
- The second person said," Continue to have Kaplan SAT/Regents and Act help.
- The third person said," Have more youth mentoring programs.
- Overall, they wanted to see more SAT/ACT & Regents help and mentoring program in the community.

Question #6 "Was Minister Perkins' sermon helpful?

- Two- yes and 1 very helpful?
- Yes, encourage positive ways of life.
- Overall, they said they learned something from the sermon on David and Goliath.

Question #7- was a repeat of 6 and it was left blank.

- They felt that they could overcome any situation; God will see you through in the time of need.
- Jacoby and Meyers will not stand, God will.
- Hold on to God's unchanging hand and he'll see you through.
- Overall their faith was strengthened and encouraged by the Word of God.

Question # 8 there was no question, it was left blank.

Question #9 was the message clear and understandable?

• 3 yes, Jesus and God will stand up for me.

Question 10 "How would you rate her (Min. Evelyn J. Perkins') Sermon?

- One Excellent and 2 goods.
- Overall, the sermon went well. It gave the students some encouraging words to live by.

Question 11. Did the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth Worship Service' help in some way?

- Yes it gave me encouragement.
- The second person said, "Yes, fairly good place and God will be there with him."
- The third person said "yes, it told me, first God in with you, though tout the journey"
- Overall, they enjoyed the sermon and though it was encouraging. Something
 to hold on too in time of trouble. Evaluation of the Leader was great. This is
 the end of evaluation of Sermon #2 and the preacher.

Sermon #3 was given at the Closing Dinner on Friday, May 24, 2013 at 6:30-8:30pm service. We started off with "Praise and Worship." The title of the sermon was: "Jesus has a word of Hope for you tonight." The biblical text was taken from Genesis 39: 4-5 and it was a story of Joseph and all he had gone through in life and how God had prepared him for life. I challenged these young people to keep on praying and God was going to see them through. That they can overcome any situation in life with God's help. This was a special night for them. During the Closing Dinner, I preached and we also had a guest speaker Councilman Robert Jackson. I spoke for 10 minutes and when

Councilman Jackson came in; I turned it over to him. He spoke to the students for 35 minutes. Later students were presented with certificates for their hard work and dinner.

All three of these sermons, help the at-risk youth. It gave them encouragement and it was tailored just for them. There are times when our youth will go to church or service and it will focus on them. These sermons taught our high school students that there was hope and we loved and cared about them. We are concerned about their welfare and helping them to get to the next level. I think these Sermons will continue to resonate with them no matter where they go or do in life. They will remember what we did here at Convent through my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project through New York Theological Seminary. A "Pre and Post" questionnaire helped the preacher to evaluate her progress by the feedback on the questions that the congregation and students filled out. This was an evaluation of how well the preacher was able to deliver her message to the congregation and high school students that attended the affairs. Here are some of the answers from the Pre and Post Questionnaire Evaluation of Pre and Post Questionnaire pertains to the sermon only. Here are some answers to questions about the sermon. Twenty surveys passed out only two returned. Students and parents gave personal testimony that was videotaped. Was the Closing Dinner encouraging? Yes.

- What did you get from the Message? 2 blank, no answers.
- Was Minister Perkins helpful? Yes, she was very encouraging.
- With so many distractions, prayer, encouragement is needed.

These are some of the answers from the Closing Dinner of 5-24-13. See Closing Dinner for the rest of the questions as it apply to the entire 'Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry' evaluation.

Second Competency Chosen for Development: Community Organizing.

The second competency to develop was community organizing. I promised to attend "Living Wage Coalition" meetings in the city and build relationships/liaison with the church and the Harlem Community. I continued to attend the Living Wage Meeting, the New York and Bronx Clergy Roundtable Monthly meetings, and Dr. Pete Heltzel's Micah Institute's Social Justice Organization. I also made liaison with the National Action Network or the Rev. Al Sharpton's Organization NAN.

Faith-Rooted Organizations Attended From February- December 2013

1. The Micah Institute Monthly Meetings with Bronx & New York Clergy Roundtable.

The Micah Institute Social Justice Organization was the vision of Rev. Dr. Peter Heltzel. It was developed about three years ago. They have been involved in many social justice issues from living wage to Occupy Wall Street to the 'Covenant' that was signed at Convent Avenue Baptist Church by all the candidates running for Mayor of the City of New York. Now there are concerns about the newly elected mayor and who will be filling different cabinet positions in the City of New York. We have met once a month at NYTS. Ministers of different faiths from all over the tri-state area have participated in the discussions. We gather together to come up with solutions that will help our church and communities help our people. It is chaired by Alexe Fleming-Torres and Rev. Que English. Some of the Social Justice Meeting attended were:

- Attended and collaborated with clergy in the designing & signing of the Covenant.
- Attended City Council Forum at Convent.
- Attended Bronx Clergy Roundtable Fair at Gun Hill Road
- 2. Attended Harlem Hospital AIDS Awareness Conference.

I was invited by Congressman Charles Rangel. One of the speakers was Alicia Keys. She talked about AIDS and how it can be contracted. What we should do to protect ourselves. Afterward, more than one hundred people got tested for AIDS. It was so important for the Harlem Community to come together to fight this horrendous disease that affects more African-American than whites.

3. Attended the "March on Washington" August 24, 2013. I attended the March on Washington to mark the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King and others march on Washington.

I took a bus with Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network located on 145th Street and Lenox Avenue. I bought my ticket in early June so that I would have a space on the bus. There were buses from many location in the five boroughs that carried hundred and thousands of people from the tri-state area for the event. The closest I got to the mall was at the statue of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. There were hundreds of thousands of people from all over the country who came to Washington to voice their opinion on unemployment, social justice, *What Washington isn't doing!*

Attended three of Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network (NAN) Saturday
 Morning Broadcast from NAN.

WLIB broadcasts the service on the radio and it is televised over the internet and cable channel. Most of the time the place is crowded with people from all over the country. The first time I came was the day he had a book signing of his new book. People were lined up outside to get in. The Saturday before the March on Washington, I attended that meeting as well. I learned a lot about why activism and social justice issues are so important.

One thing I admire about Al or Rev. Sharpton. If something happens he will be there. If someone's son or daughter has been killed or hurt and they cannot get justice, Rev. Al will have people down there in a minute to protest the action. He does a lot for the Harlem Community. On Thanksgiving he had dinner prepared for the needy and homeless and anyone who was hungry. On Christmas, he had toys for the kids and they also feed them. Harlem respects and loves Al because they remember "when there was no justice and we had to protest." He has his own show called "Political Nation" on channel 23 on MSNBC cable channel. He brings to the forefront issues that no one wants to discuss but has to be discussed. This is another organization, NAN that I will continue to participate in.

5. Attended Clergy Breakfast with newly Elected Mayor De Blasio at 11th Street Church Nov. 5, 2013 at a Seventh Day Adventist Church in the Village.

Community leaders and about 300 ministers of all faiths showed up. They wanted to make sure that we still got out the votes for De Blasio. We were asked to talk to our congregation and vote. We could not take anything for granted, even though the polls showed that De Blasio was up by 40 points. De Blasio's manager was a member of the Micah Institute, NY & Bronx Clergy Roundtable. I have learned a great deal by coming to these meeting. I have met so many wonderful people of different faiths. Now when I come to the meeting we are closer than ever. We respect one another's faith and beliefs. But we can work together for a common goal which is social justice for all. These are some organizations that I will continue to participate in.

6. The Baptist Ministers of Greater New York and the Vicinity.

November, 2013, I joined the Baptist Minister's Conference of Greater New York and received a membership card. The Baptist Ministers of Greater New York and the vicinity have been around for over a hundred years. It was a time that women could not be a part of it. It was changed over twenty years ago to allow women to become members. I love going there because I can sit back and be revived by the preaching and the discussion. I'm learning from the Seasoned Preachers. They are helping me. Things that I do not get in my church, I get the mentoring here. I am learning a lot about the ministry. I am happy I joined. Two years ago, I was asked to join. It was only this year that I was able to join with the recommendation of the pastor. I believe that I can use some of my gifts and talents to help this organization.

7. Attended the December 12, 2013, Clergy Breakfast at 1st Corinthians Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Walrond.

The Clergy Breakfast was sponsored by the Black Institute of Justice in Brooklyn. However, it was held at 1st Corinthians Baptist Church in Harlem so that it would be convenient for everyone to travel. The church is located on 116th Street and 7th Avenue. Guest Speaker Rev. Al Sharpton. There were about one hundred ministers of all faiths in attendance. It was packed out. I was personally invited by one of the staff members to come and support them. When something happens in the city, they let me know what is going on so that I can share it with my pastor, who may not be able to attend the conference. So in essence I have become a community activist. I am called upon to go to different places. There are so many social justice organizations now that it is impossible to attend them all. You have to pick and choose which ones that best suit your ministry and social justice platform.

In closing, all of these affairs help to broaden my horizon on social justice and what is needed in the Harlem community. I have developed and built relationships with these community organizations. Convent Avenue Baptist Church is represented at the table. Before I started the Doctor of Ministry (Micah) Program in Transformational Leadership and Faith-Rooted Organizing in Social Justice, Idid not attend many social justice conferences. It was Dr. Peter Heltzel who convinced me to come to the "Living Wage" meeting and what they were trying to do. Since then, I have been trying to get some of our Associate Ministers to attend but they have their own ministry to do. I think it is so important that we come together to talk about issues concerning our community, whether it is a social justice issue or an educational issue that is affecting our community. We as clergy have to take a part in the discussion. Let them know that we are not going to sit back and do nothing. Our community would be in a better place if all of us should lend a hand or let our voices be heard. How can we better serve our community and build relationships with faith-based organizations within the tri-state area of New York City? By attended social justice meeting and organizations. As a result, I have come familiar with the leaders of all different faith-based communities in the city. As a result, I have incorporated "Center for At-Risk Youth, International" an organization that will help our at-risk youth in the Harlem Community and will focus on the youth population of the city. I think that when God gives you a vision it is so important to keep it together for the good of the people. That is why I had to keep this program together for those who will be coming after me. Our faith-based and community organizations have a responsibility as well to create programs for our youth. After we have had all these social justices meeting and roundtables we need to get out there and start planting the seeds. We need to create

more non-profit organizations that will combat poverty and social injustices in our city, state and federal government. Then we can tell you young people that it is okay to protest, but we should use the example of Dr. Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela to "Carry on the Vision" God have given us. We have to pass on the vision and prepare the younger generation for the future. It is not going to be easy, but it is doable. With a little hard work and perseverance, they can make it. That is why we all have to come together to help these children. And the faith-rooted organizations can help too by mentoring and getting funding for more educational programs for our at-risk youth. Only then, will we be able to level the playing field for our youth.

CHAPTER 10 IMPLICATIONS FOR MINISTRY

The implication for the Ministry was a very important aspect of the Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry It was one way to keep the vision alive. To make sure that God's vision for the at-risk youth was met at every level. That our high school students will have every opportunity to succeed in life. Our goal was to raise the conscience level of the community, high school student, parents, politicians, faith leaders and community organizations of the need for more educational programs in various areas of Harlem, especially in the Hamilton Heights area of Harlem.

Conferences and Workshops:

One of the Conferences we had was the 1st Educational Awareness Summit, which was held on March 1, 2013 at 6:30pm. Community leaders, faith-based organizations, politicians and NY City Council leaders were in attendance. First we opened the conference with scripture and prayer. Then we started off with a film "Waiting for Superman" narrated by Geoffrey Canada from Children Zone in Harlem where he talks about charter schools vs. public schools. It was a very interesting discussion with the members of the church (CABC), faith-based leaders and community leaders. One thing that they took away from the discussion was the awareness about charter schools and how they select students from a lottery to attend their schools. Sometimes students build up their hopes in attending a particular charter school only to find out that their names were not called. They are put on waiting list until there is an

available space opening for them. Another point that really got to me was that how a parent would sacrifice to pay the tuition during the whole year to find out that they do not have the extra cash to pay for graduation or fees. They had to sit out the graduation. I felt that the charter school could have help in some way to let the child march. After doing all the assignments and homework to be denied the opportunity to march or graduate until the funds are paid. I felt their pain. Overall, charter schools present the idea of smaller classrooms, more instructional time and more opportunities for students to get more time with teachers. They would have more time to work with students on an individual basis. The conference opened up a dialogue that could have lasted a couple of hours. They did not want to leave. It lasted 2 1/2 hours from 6-8:30pm.

An announcement was posted in the Convent Avenue Baptist Church order of service, the "Echo." And flyers were passed out to people in the community. (For copy of the announcement printed in the "Echo" see Appendix G.)

Results of the 'Pre' and Post Survey Questions of the First Educational Awareness Summit, March 1, 2013

These are the results of the 'Pre' and 'Post' questionnaire that the parents and students were asked to fill out. 20 surveys were passed out and only 6 returned.

Some of the questions were:

PRE-QUESTIONNAIRE:

- 1. What do you hope to gain from seeing "Waiting for Superman"?
 - a. Most of the people said "Better understanding youth woes and create more youth programs.
 - b. 5 answered the question. 1 was left blank.
- 2. Name one issue that should be discussed, tonight? The majority of the people said: co-location, parental support, union vs. charter schools, students' achievement. 4 out of 6 people answered the question.

- 3. How many children do you have in high school, public school or charter?

 The answers were: 1 child in high school, zero for public and charter schools. In this group we had a lot of community leaders, politicians and few parents of children in high school.
- 4. My main concern is _____?

Parents were able to fill in the blank with their answers. Some of the answers were: Early Childhood Education, after school Funding, High School Drop-outs, reclaiming Our youth, Teacher's Performance, Teacher's Termination, Denial of Tenure and Core Curriculum. Over all, most of the pre-questions were on Early Childhood, after school programs and drop-outs.

Post Questionnaire:

- 1. What did you learn that you did not know before? Some of the answers were: Challenges affecting our youth, passing the "Lemon Rubber Room," resources, and failure of schools and community to educate our youth. Overall, they were concerned about educating our children and passing kids on to the next grade not knowing anything.
- Were some of your questions answered?
 3 people said yes. 1 person said complex issue. And 3 people left this question blank.
- 3. The next "At-risk youth Summit," we should discuss_____ because___.

 Some of the answers were: Early Childhood Education, solutions (fix the system), General Education, track-traps, incarceration, cuts, path of our youth and ways of funding. These were some of the answers to the question.
- 4. What will you take away from "Waiting for Superman" and the Panel discussion?

Some of the answers were: the need for more money and resources to address the issues, anxiety about education and teachers' reform. Overall, they though that there were complex issues within the Department of Education that need to be reformed in some way to help our youth. These were some of the answers of the group and panelist.

- 5. What are some suggestions you think will be beneficial to the church and the community?Some of the answers were: create support programs; parents help students, invite
 - more teachers, more outreach programs. This question on three sheets was left blank. Overall, they felt that we should create more support programs for students.
- 6. How would you rate overall experience at the 'Summit''?

 They were asked to check which one (Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor).

 There were 3 Excellent, 2 goods and one left blank.

Overall, it was rated good to excellent.

It was very successful. People kept talking about the 1st Educational Awareness Summit for weeks and how they were helped by the conference.

Closing/Dinner for the Kaplan Sat Prep Class May 24, 2013.

On May 24, 2013, we had a closing dinner to celebrate the success of the Saturday Kaplan Sat Prep Course. For 10 long weeks students traveled all across the city to get to our Kaplan SAT Pre Class. They came from Far Rockaway, Queens, the Bronx, Brooklyn, New Jersey and upstate New York to attend this class. So after the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" was implemented and finished; I thought it would be a good idea to acknowledge their achievement and sacrifice. Just before the closing dinner started, I was asked by twenty rappers to pray for them. We got into a circle and prayed for our at-risk youth and the rappers and their families. I asked them what they needed to pray for. I asked each person to say what they needed God to do in their lives. Afterward, I prayed for them. These rappers left CABC with a new sense peace and purpose in their lives. The closing dinner started off with Praise and Worship, and then we moved into the program with scripture, prayer and purpose for the event. I preached a 15 minute sermon on "Jesus has a word of hope for you to night." There was

a period in the program for the students, parents and teacher to share their personal testimony on the "Mentoring and Saturday Kaplan Sat Prep Course." Students were able to share what they gained from taking a Kaplan SAT Prep Course and how it helped them. Then, NYC Councilman Robert Jackson came in to talk to the students about the college admissions process and what it takes to get in. He talked about his daughters and how hard it was for him to go to college. How much tuition cost. What are some alternatives to going to Ivy League Colleges? Students had a chance to ask Councilman Jackson some questions (see Appendix F for pictures of Councilman Jackson & Closing Dinner.). Afterward, students were presented with certificates. Then we gave the benediction and blessed the food. I had a chance to meet parents of high school students from A. Philip Randolph Campus High School for the first time. They expressed to me what a blessing it was to have a Kaplan SAT Prep Course here at Convent to help their son or daughter. They thanked us for caring enough to do something to help them. I was presented with cards from students, at the time when I was implementing the program. It was only God's grace and mercy that brought me through. I remember lugging a suitcase full of food every Saturday morning to the 4th floor of the Educational Building so that these students would have a little something to eat before class just in case they were not able to get anything. Now as I look back, I see that it was all worth the sacrifice that was made on their behalf. This type of program is needed here at Convent. After talking to my pastor, Dr. Williams on September 17, 2013, he encouraged me to continue. He wanted to keep this program here at the church. I have gained so much by working with these at-risk youth from the church and A. Philip Randolph Campus High School. Here are some of the 'Feedback" we received from the 'Pre' and 'Post' Surveys.

Pre and Post Questionnaire for the Closing Dinner of May 24, 2013.

There were 15 surveys passed out, but only two returned. Students gave their personal testimony verbally on video tape. The Closing Dinner was videotaped. Here are some of the answers to the surveys.

How has the Kaplan SAT Prep Course helped your son or daughter? One person said, "It has helped me to improve my SAT scores." The other person left the question blank.

Should a course like this (Kaplan SAT Prep Course) be given every year, in CABC, to help our students prepare for the college admission Process? Both students said, "Yes!"

Is there a need for a "College Prep Ministry" in CABC for our students and the community? Both students said, "Yes!"

1. What did you learn that you did not know before? One student said, "Many helpful devices to use when analyzing the question. The other person left the question blank. Was the SAT Prep Course 'Affordable'? Answer: Yes, it was free.

How has it help you prepare for college? SAT Prep has helped me prepare for a good college. The other student left the question blank.

2. Was the Closing Dinner encouraging? "Both students said, yes!"

What did you get from the 'Message'? Both students left this question blank. No answer was given. Was the Director (Min. Evelyn J. Perkins) helpful? Both students said, yes. One student said, "Yes, she stresses higher education and Faith."

3. Is there a need for a "Youth Mentoring Programs" in CABC and Harlem Community for at-risk youth? Explain. Both students said, yes. One student said, "Yes, I feel that with so many distractions, the proper encouragement is greatly needed in our community." The other student said, "We need more programs like this, so that every student can have an opportunity to go to a good college." Overall, these students enjoyed the program and Closing Dinner. They would like to see more of these types of program to prepare them so that they will be able to get in the best colleges. And the skills and strategies that Ben Bar of Kaplan taught them, they will be able to use them in the classroom and every aspect of their lives. Some of these students made the "Honor Roll or Dean's List." I am so proud of every one of them. This a starting point, but there is more to do. Parents gave personal testimony as well. It was recorded on videotape. There were many obstacles, but God got the Glory in all of this. I am thankful to God that these students were able to come and be blessed by the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" I know that God has more for us to do to

help these students and those who will come after them. These are the results of the survey taken after the Closing Dinner of May 24, 2013 held at the CABC.

The College Fair:

Once a year the African-American Forum of the CABC host a "College Fair" of Historically Black Colleges from all across the United States. They come from Morehouse College, Howard University, Morgan State University, Alabama State University, Spellman Women's College in Atlanta, and Drew University. Each year the African-American Forum invites high school students from the community to take part. This year, I asked the chair of the organization if I could work with them with my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project. I met with them for two or three Sundays after the 11 am service. We collaborated together. I was asked to recruit students to come. I took flyers to the three high schools in the neighborhood and talked to the principal or the guidance counselor to invite their High school students to come. On that same date, the Board of Education was holding a "College Fair" and Regents Exam. More students from the neighborhood came in the afternoon than in the morning. I was also asked to ask my Saturday SAT Prep Class to come to the event as well. I also asked if I could invite Ms. Pamela Johnson, the 'Scholarship Lady' to give a workshop on "College Financial Aid, Scholarships and Grants." I joined with them in July. The College Fair was on October 19, 2013 at 10-3pm. Colleges were invited. Food was donated by local merchants in the community. The morning of the affair, the team began to assemble and put up balloons and flyers around the church. Representatives from various colleges set up their stations with college flyers, banners and relevant information about their college or university. When they came through the door, they signed in and were given a bag to use as they visited each college table. There were about 20 colleges in attendance.

The College Fair was a great success. From 1: 45 -3:30, the Scholarship Lady, Pamela Johnson gave a workshop on behalf of my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project. She talked about applying and preparing for the college admissions process. What they need to get into one of the top notch Ivy League, historically black colleges, here in the United States of America. One thing that I thought was helpful to the at-risk high school student was that they should be applying for more grants and scholarships that are out there. Most people don't apply for scholarships from the NAACP, Urban League or some social group. They forget that it might be \$1,000 or \$500 that can be used to buy books, dorm room supplies or just to live on during their academic year. There were about 20 people in attendance. They were so engaged that they did not want to leave, when the church was closing at 4pm. They stood outside the church and continued to talk to Deacon Pamela Johnson, the Scholarship Lady. Another Scholarship Workshop is scheduled for March of next year. I have a feeling that she will be coming back every year as a presenter for the African-American Forum. Several Ministries like the Mentoring Ministry of the church asked me for her number. The African-American Forum said that having Pamela Johnson there help bump up their College Fair. Last year not one student from our church attended the College Fair. This year as I was able to reach out to them because of my Saturday Kaplan SAT Prep Course they came to the fair. We had a great turn-out. It was mentioned in the Co-op City Times as well. I look forward to working with this group, next year.

Evaluation of the October 19, 2013 College Fair: Pre and Post Questionnaires

Below are surveys questions that parents and students were asked to fill out and return to the African-American Experience Forum for review. Twenty-five surveys were passed out only 15 returned. Here are some of the results of the survey.

1. What do you hope to gain from today's College Fair? Here are some of the answers: Idea about college (2), college offer (7), campus life (4), SAT Prep effect college (1), information (4), Financial Aid (1), and grades (1). Overall students wanted information about college and SAT, grades and financial aid packages. What are some of the colleges/universities that you are interested in attending? Some of the colleges listed were: NYU (2), Upstate (1), Penn State (4), Lincoln University (1), Lafayette (1), Carnegie Mellon (1), and Cornell University 91), Stony Brook University (2), Spellman (1), UNC (1), Winthrop (1), Gettysburg (1), City Tech (1, 0, Bridgeport (1), Clark University in Atlanta (1), California (1), Howard (2), Alabama State University (1), Columbia University (1), and 1 cannot make a decision. Overall, there were a lot of high school students who came in to talk college representatives. They listed 22 different colleges that they were interested in attending. Only a few students said that they were attending historic black colleges. Even, though some of the HBC had full scholarships. I am currently attending _____high school in____. Here are some of the high schools that were listed such as: CTE (4), Cathedral (1), Thurman Marshall Academy (1), and Freeport H.S. (1), TYWL High School East Harlem (2), Wadleigh High School (2), John Bowne (1), Mott Hall (1), MESM –Manhattan (1), Xavier Air (1) and Flushing High School (1)

Post Questionnaire of the College Fair:

1. Was the College Fair helpful? Explain. 15 people said yes. They learned so much information about HBC and other colleges. Information was given and explained to them about their admissions policy. What have you learned today, at the "College Fair" that you did not know before? Explain. Some of the answers were: Keep up GPA, scholarships and grants people don't know about, different field of

- study, job interest, taking notes, pre-med programs, and dual degrees. These were some of the answers given on this question.
- 2. What was the most exciting part of the "College Fair"? One person said the liked Alabama State University. Learning about college (3), seeing campus pictures (2), Learning from people who went to college (2), Meet and greet the people (5), Legal College (1), talking to Alumni (1), and getting information (1). Overall these high school students loved meeting alumni from various colleges and universities. They were impressed with the Scholarship Lady and her presentation on "Grants and Scholarships."
- 3. Would you be will to attend another "College Fair" at CABC? There were 15 'yes'. Overall, they enjoyed the College Fair and can't wait to see it next year. These are the results of the 'Pre' and 'Post' Survey of the College Fair of October 19, 2013 at CABC.

Mentoring Workshop:

A Mentoring Workshop was given to teach perspective "Mentors" how to mentor the students of the Saturday SAT Prep Class, which was given on Wednesday night at 5:30-6:30 pm at CABC, conference room. The class was conducted by Minister Evelyn J. Perkins Doctor of Ministry Candidate at New York Theological Seminary.

1. First I introduced myself and the purpose of my "Mentoring At-Risk Youth Project." I mentioned how important it is to mentor these kids from our church and neighborhood. That the at-risk youth needed their help. What I wanted them to do was to check on them periodically to see how they were doing in school and their home life. There were 10 students from CABC. I asked the group if they see them at church, say hello. How are you? I'm here if you need me, now. We are here for you. I encourage the volunteers to be there for them to help them. If they do see them at church, give them a call to see if everything is okay. Then I trained them as to what to say and how to say it. What not to ask. They were asked to say "Hello" to their student every Sunday. And if they don't see them on Sunday or their parent to call them at home every two weeks.

- 2. They would be given a small little spiral book to keep record of their discussions and any suggestion they may have to help them.
- 3. Don't We would appreciate it very, much if they did not meet these students on the outside. I wanted them to just call them or if they see them in church just to say "hello." No outside contact is permitted.
- 4. I wrote out some starter questions that they could use in their conversation. Another meeting would be scheduled to see the progress to these high school students. (See Appendix D for a copy of the Manual for at-risk youth).

Every one of my 10 "Mentors" received a copy of this manual. To refer back to in case they run into a problem that they cannot handle or don't know what to do. The Manual for at-risk youth will guide each mentor every step of the way. As the program progresses, more steps and suggestions will be added based upon the need of every individual in the program. A copy of the Manual for at-risk youth will be kept on file for new mentors to review as needed.

CHAPTER 11 "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND"

It is so important that we help our students so that "No Child will be Left Behind" in any subject. They will be better prepared for the future. My Doctor of Ministry (Micah) Demonstration Project focused on "Mentoring." This Demonstration Project was entitled: "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" was implemented in the Convent Avenue Baptist Church from February 2, 2013 to December 31, 2013. It started off as just a mentoring program and emerged as a full blown "At-risk youth Program" reached students from all five boroughs, upstate New York and New Jersey. While I was implementing the program, I noticed that there were a lot of parents asking me "What are you going to do for us?" (She meant the little kids from the third grade to 9th grade.) The whole neighborhood has been shaken. The awareness of the lack of educational programs was now visible. No longer can we hide the fact that our children are falling behind because of the lack of educational opportunities that would propel them to a higher level. Now we are at the point where we as politicians, clergy, lay, community leaders and people of different faith, must come together and step up to the plate to help our children To prepare our children to become leaders and take their rightful place in society. One might ask "How do we do that?" By preparing them at an early age with a strong literacy, reading, math and science foundation to meet the needs of the world. This "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" is needed in our church. So that there will be "No Child Left Behind." "God is doing a new thing in our

lives!" We just have to be open and listen to what He has to say, new possibilities can happen.

CHAPTER 11 FINAL THOUGHTS

These are "Final Thoughts" on my Doctor of Ministry's Demonstration Project entitled "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry." This demonstration project was implemented at the Convent Baptist Church, one of the Historical Black Churches in Harlem, during the spring of 2013. There were 14 high school students, who participated in the Saturday Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep course a 'Mentoring' Program. During this time, I was able to "mentor" high school students from various ethnic groups from all over the five boroughs of the City of New York. My goal was to prepare them for the College Admissions Process and give them words of encouragement as well. When we think of "At-Risk" Youth, they are students who are in danger of academic failure, low social-economic issues, foster children who may have aged out. But there are other factors that contribute to students being at-risk such as: no opportunity, no parental support, poor schools, no support of local churches, parents don't have living wage jobs to support their families, drugs and gang involvement. These are some of the socialeconomic issues that our high school students are face with. In my final analysis, I think more should be done to help our Black and Latino brothers to succeed in life. One would ask: "Why are so many of them at-risk of failing?" My answer is that they have not been given an opportunity. In my "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" Demonstration Project, I tried to level the playing field by offering At-Risk high school students from A. Philip Randolph Campus High School at the City College Campus and

my church (Convent Avenue Baptist Church's students) an opportunity to raise their SAT scores, self-esteem, life skills and prepare them for the college admissions process. I believe that it was done. When I first started, there were obstacles, but as the program progressed, parents, community and believers began to see the value in this program. Students were more prepared that ever. When I was presenting my "Oral Defense" for my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project, I was asked a question by Rev. Dr. Peter G. Heltzel, head of the Doctor of Ministry (Micah) Cohort Group: "If I had the opportunity to speak with Mayor Bill de Blasio about my 'Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry,' what would be three questions, I would ask him during the discussion?" Below are the questions I would ask our newly elected Mayor de Blasio.

- 1. "What are some of the ways, he (Mayor Bill de Blasio) thinks, we could help our Black and Latino brothers and sisters, who are at-risk of academic failure, homeless, and those who are returning to society?"
- 2. "How can the Board of Education, teachers, and faith-based organization better prepare our at-risk youth for college and careers within the City of New York?" What are his feelings about the "Living Wage Act"?
- **3.** "What advice would he give to community faith-based organizations and churches in preparing these at-risk youth for the future? How can they best support the ministry? What does he (Mayor Bill de Blasio) see as the problem with our Black and Latino males?

These are a few of the questions I would like to ask him. Sharing some of the work I have done here at NYTS could be used in his administration. When Kaplan's representative, Jane Berkowitz gave her testimony at the closing dinner on May 24. 2013, she said that "my mentoring program had been replicated three times in Harlem and Washington Heights by New York City Councilman Robert Jackson (7th District in Harlem)." I was touched. I was so glad I had invited my advisor Rev. Dr. Nancy Fields to the affair. She was a witness to her testimony. We both were shocked because no one told

me or asked me if they could use the program. But she later told me that "this is what we are trying to do, here at New York Theological Seminary's Doctor of Ministry Program." All of these questions are important to the welfare of our society. Unless we find a way to break the cycle of those at-risk, our high school students will always be at risk.

Black and Latino Males: Why do they fail? Someone asked me a question "Why do Black and Latino males fail? I do not see them as failures. I see the situation as "not having the same opportunity as their counterparts." They are not paid equal pay or given the same salary. Each ethnic group has reasons why they fail. Some Blacks and Latinos fail because they start at a different point from their White counterparts. Even if they catch up, they are still behind. If they did not get a good formal education, they might have difficulties later on in life. I am concerned not only with high school students who are at-risk of academic failure, but I am also concerned about those Black and Latino Brothers who lack living wage jobs, get involved in drugs and gangs as well. We can help those Black and Latino brothers, who have been incarcerated, but are now back in society trying to get their lives together. My "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" was a success, but there is still more to do in "Breaking the Cycle of At-Risk Youth" who are failing. "According to the National Estimate, only 59 percent of Black Males and 49 percent of Latino Males complete high school." We can see "In New York City, the largest public school system in the nation, only 44 percent of both Black and Latino males from 2005 cohort graduate after six years of high school...In 2007, nearly 6.2 million young people were high school dropouts. Every student, who does not

⁵⁸ J. Greene and M. Winters, "Leaving Boys Behind Public High School Graduation Rates," Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, Civic Report 48 (April 2006), https://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/cr_48.htm (accessed April 28, 2014).

complete high school cost our society an estimated \$260,000 in lost earning, taxes, and productivity." ⁵⁹ There are many reasons why our students are at-risk such as: "72% of the black children are born to unwed mothers, 70% of juveniles in state operated institutions having no future...85% of youth in prison grew up in a fatherless house."60 These are only a few statistics concerning at-risk youth. I would let Mayor Bill de Blasio know that in my "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry," I tried to focus on preparing our youth for the "College Admissions Process" through mentoring, SAT prep and putting the "love of God" in action. I know that Mayor Bill de Blasio and his wife (Chirlane McCray) are parents, who have two children. Another question I would him is "What was his thought on "At-Risk Youth" and how can we work together to help them?" As a result, 14 high school students who participated in the program showed progress and the mentoring program helped to raise their self-esteem as well. These high school students from A. Philip Randolph Campus High School, Convent and the tri-state area were blessed by the program. Through personal testimony given at the Closing Dinner held at CABC on May 24, 2014, students shared how it helped them.

Some gave testimonies that their grades when up, some made the honor roll in school and I had one student from A. Philip Randolph Campus High School, who got accepted into four Ivy League Colleges because of my Doctor of Ministry's Demonstration Project entitled "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry." Her SAT scores went up 500 points. My Pastor, Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. and First

⁵⁹ New York City Department of Education, "Graduation Rates," http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/data/GraduationDropoutReports/default.htm (accessed April 28, 2014).

⁶⁰ US Department of Justice, *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Survey of Youth in Custody* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office), 1988.

Lady Gelaine Williams can't wait to enroll their son, Jesse, in the program. Pastor Williams of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church was touched by the program and wants to keep it there. Rev. Dr. John Scott, pastor of St. John Baptist Church in Harlem and NYTS Alumni, told The Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York and Vicinity about my project. Now they want me to give a lecture on the topic. There are 150 churches in the BMC, who would like to see this program in their own churches. It was not easy implementing this program. I met with obstacles after obstacles. There were times when I had to call up my advisor, the Reverend Nancy Fields for advice. Dr. Fields encouraged me to go on with the project. She saw the benefits of the Mentoring program and what I was trying to do. My life was transformed as well. Because of the success of what I have done with the "Mentoring At-Risk Program," I was led by God to set-up a not-for-profit organization ("Center for At-Risk Youth International, Incorporated") to continue to address the needs of the Harlem Community. What I have done has helped so many at-risk youth. The Bible tells us in Luke 12:48b "...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be required" (KJV). I see God's hand on this program. The church has an obligation to help these students as well. The same people who were against it are now asking me when the next class will begin. One day, these same students will come back and become mentors and leaders themselves. I would like to say that we, New York Theological Seminary's Doctor of Ministry (Micah) had a part in their success. If NYTS had not had a program like this, it would have never been created. We have come a long way, but not far enough to "Break the Cycle of At-Risk" and "Level the Playing Field" for all of our high school students.

In closing, I must say that during the 10 weeks of Mentoring and SAT Prep class, lives were transformed. Students felt good about themselves. They felt confident. This was a College Prep Ministry not merely test prep. It was a place, where students could share personal stories about themselves, their school and dreams would come alive. It have them a sense of Hope that one day they too will be able to Mentor someone else and tell them how they got over. Some might not understand why it was so important. I was raised in the segregated South, during the Jim Crow Era. Blacks were not given the same opportunities as Whites. When I was doing my graduate work at Fordham University (Lincoln Center Campus), I was encouraged to go into teaching by my professors Dr. Lindenbaum, Dr. Delio and Dr. Willis. . I am a former public school teacher and college adjunct instructor for the College of New Rochelle. I have seen a lot. I have even worked in one of the most challenging public middle schools in the Bronx, M.S. 142 where there were five gangs in that school. I mentored several Special Educational Students who were at-risk. I brought in "The Scared Straight Task Force" to talk to the students about their behavior and life. In my last year, as a Masters of Divinity student, I had the opportunity to intern for Rev. Dr. C. Vernon Mason, the Director of U-Turn, an at-risk youth program. As a result, many lives were forever changed. We have come a long way, but not far enough. That is why we need programs like this, so that we can begin to level the playing field for all of our students. Then and only then will you see a decline in the dropout rate. Your will see a change in the mentality of these youth. They will have positive activities to get involved in. They will begin to believe in themselves. As a result this Mentoring program will build character and integrity. They will begin to believe in themselves and that they can make it. It is our job to continue to encourage them to

succeed in life so that one day they will be able to take their rightful place in society and become productive citizen. These were some of my "Final Thoughts" on my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project on "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" and some of the most important questions, I would like to ask Mayor Bill de Blasio if presented with the opportunity to do so.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT PROPOSAL

MENTORING AT-RISK YOUTH: A COLLEGE PREP MINISTRY

By

MINISTER EVELYN J. PERKINS

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT PROPOSAL

New York Theological Seminary

February 1, 2013

Challenge Statement

As an Associate Minister of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church, one of the Historical Black Churches in Harlem, N.Y. located in one of the most affluent sections of Harlem, N.Y., I am concerned about the lack of educational opportunities for our high school students, who are at-risk. Statistics shows 37% of students did not receive their high school diplomas and are ill prepared for the College Admissions Process. This Demonstration Project will create a "College Prep Ministry" that will 'transform lives' and 'level the playing field' for At-Risk Youths in our church and community.

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION TO THE SETTING

The Hamilton Heights Area of Harlem is the setting of this Demonstration Project on "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry." The Harlem Community stretches from the East River to the Hudson River between 159th Street in the north. where it meets Washington Heights, to a ragged border along the south. Central Harlem begins at 110th Street—the north side of Central Park; Spanish Harlem extends East Harlem's boundaries south to 96th street. While in the west, it begins north of the Upper West Side, which gives it an irregular border with Morningside Avenue. Harlem's boundaries have changed over the years. As Ralph Ellison observed "Wherever Negroes live uptown is considered Harlem." Harlem contains a number of smaller, cohesive districts or communities such as: Hamilton Heights, Sugar Hill, Hamilton Grange, and Morningside Heights. Central Harlem, Mount Morris, Marcus Garvey Park, Striver's Row, Astor Row, Spanish Harlem or East Harlem, better known as "El Barrio" east of Fifth Avenue. These are a few of the many famous communities of Harlem. Harlem is represented by many districts in local, state and federal government (15th Congressional District, New York State 30th and New York State Assembly 68th & 70th, New York City Council 7th, 8th, and 9th Districts).

Harlem's rich history dates back to the 1600's. The first European settlement was by Hendrick De Forest and the Dutch settlers in 1637. It was first occupied by Native

¹ http://www.ironmagazineforums.com/history/topic/93938-1.html (accessed November 7, 2012).

Americans called the Lenape. The English took control in 1776, in the Battle of Harlem Heights, also called the Battle of Harlem or the Battle of Harlem Plains.

The Harlem population has changed over the years. The neighborhood remains predominately African-Americans. According to the 1990 census data: 72% of the population was black; the number of white residents numbered only 672 people—0.5% of the population. By 2005, whites numbered 5,000 people or 4.5% of the population in 2005. As of September 2008, their number was estimated to have nearly tripled from the 2005 level." Harlem is growing and changing every day. More businesses are coming in and it is alive with commercial activity. Even the demographics of local churches are changing as well. More whites are joining local historic black churches.

My Demonstration Project will take place in the Education Building of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church located on Convent Avenue and 144th Street in the heart of the Hamilton Heights area of Harlem. It is a seven story building which connects with the church. Named for the first Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, Alexander Hamilton, this area has been called one of the most affluent sections of Harlem. The Hamilton Heights area is adjoined with the "Sugar Hill" area of Harlem. The Harlem community has an impressive collection of single-family townhouses that dates back to the turn of the century. Because of its unique architecture, the Hamilton Historical District was created in the 1970's to protect the architectural character of the community. The law protects the church sanctuary and several of its properties—they cannot be altered or demolished as they fall under the Historic Preservation Laws. The

² http://2010.census.gov/2010census/popmap/ipmtext.php?fl=36 (accessed November 7, 2012).

 $^{^3}$ History of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church, www.conventchurch.org (accessed, October 6, 2012).

Harlem Community is best known for its Jazz and Supper Clubs for the black elite. There is much diversity of people who reside in the Harlem Community such as: blacks from the Southern United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, and Africa. The main focal point of the Harlem Community has been black politics, education, literacy, music, and religious leadership.

There are two high schools located in the Hamilton Heights area of Harlem—A. Philip Randolph Campus High School and the High School for Math and Science, which are both housed at the City College of New York. Some of our high school students travel to lower Manhattan to take classes. There are those who may be economically deprived, attending high schools in their neighborhood or closer to home.

The Convent Avenue Baptist Church is a three- story building connecting to a walkway from the church building to the Educational Building on 144th Street. The Convent Avenue Baptist Church is a white marble building. The type of building is neo-Gothic, the same architectural style as St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan. Outside the Convent Avenue Baptist Church, there are tree-lined blocks. Flowers and shrubs are planted in front of the church. The neighborhood is well kept, although parking is limited, cars are often double-parked on the streets of Harlem. The interior is traditional with stained-glass windows with Biblical pictures on them.

The history of the church has been an awesome journey with God leading us every step of the way. The Convent Avenue Baptist Church was founded in 1942. The Rev. Dr. John W. Saunders was the founder of the church. It came out of the Walker Memorial Baptist Church. Dr. Saunders was in his seventies, when he formed a group called "the Kingdom Builders." The Kingdom Builders begin having their church

services in the Congress Casino and the Old Baptist Temple in the Harlem Community. The Kingdom Builders raised \$50,000 to purchase a building called Washington Heights Baptist Church. On February 4, 1942, the Kingdom Builders marched to their new home, which is now called The Convent Avenue Baptist Church. Since the beginning, CABC has had four pastors: Dr. John W. Saunders; Rev. Manie L. Wilson, who served as Interim Pastor for five years, after Dr. Wilson passed away; the Rev. Dr. Clarence P. Grant; (two interim ministers—Dr. La Rue and Dr. Battle—took care of Preaching and the Spiritual aspects of the church, until a new Pastor was found, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Clearance Hartwell, was in charge of the church until a new pastor could be elected); and in 2007, a new pastor—the Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr.—was elected as the fourth Senior Pastor of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church. There are more than 4,000 members in our congregation. The Mission of the church is: "We are Change people, changing the world, and the community for Jesus Christ." There are more than seventy outreach ministries in our church. Some of the ministries at Convent are: Homeless Ministry, Business Empowerment, Sick and Shut-In Ministry, Prison Ministry, Progressive Ministry, Music Ministry, Evangelism Ministry, and Mentoring Ministry. These are a few of the many ministries at CABC that service the Harlem Community in many capacities.

At CABC, our faith is most important. As Baptists, we believe in the Trinity (Father, Son and the Holy Spirit). We believe in one faith, one baptism and one Lord. People are baptized on the profession of their faith. It is based on the Baptist Doctrine and the Principles of Jesus the Christ. The main authority is the Bible—the King James Version. CABC tries to meet the needs of its congregation and neighboring

communities. Our new Senior Pastor, the Reverend Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. has been active in the Harlem community. Since we are located in the Hamilton Heights area of Harlem, it is important to fight for social justice issues concerning our community. We are concerned about our members and the challenges they face in society. Convent has been a major force behind the passage of the "Living Wage Act" at City Hall. CABC fights for liberation and social justice issues that affect our community. The CABC promotes holistic healing through our ministries and worship services. It is a spirit-filled church that touches the spirit and soul of all that comes through her doors.

CHAPTER 2 PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

Challenge Statement

As an Associate Minister of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church, one of the Historical Black Churches in Harlem, N.Y. located in one of the most affluent sections of Harlem, N.Y., I am concerned about the lack of educational opportunities for our high school students, who are at-risk. Statistics shows 37% of students did not receive their high school diplomas and are ill prepared for the College Admissions Process. This Demonstration Project will create a 'College Prep Ministry" that will 'transform lives' and 'level the playing field' for At-Risk Youths in our church and community.

As an Associate Minister of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church (a Historical Black Church in Harlem, N.Y.) and an educator, I am concerned about the lack of educational opportunities for our high school students who are 'at-risk' in our church and community. Some of these 'at-risk' students live in Hamilton Heights and may be at-risk because of social, economic or ethnic reasons. In Harlem there are many reasons why children are at-risk. According to The Child Center of New York 57% of children are born into poverty; 15,490 children are homeless in New York City; 58% of elementary school students are reading below the state standardize test; and 37% of students did not receive their high school diplomas. Some of these 'at-risk' students live in the Hamilton Heights area and maybe a part of our church. It is so important for the CABC to set up a "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: College Prep Ministry" to help these young people in our church and community to be better prepared for the 21st Century—with life skills that are

⁴ The Child Center of New York, "Nurturing Children, Stretching Family," http://www.childcenterny.org (accessed November 7, 2012).

valuable and transferable. Only then, will our young African-American and Latino students be prepared to compete on the same level as students from China and abroad. If we don't start now, our 'at-risk' youth will be lost. It is so important for our churches and faith-community to get involved, as partners, in the process of preparing our youth for the future. If, we don't start when they are young, then it will be too late to save them. I strongly believe that a 'Mentoring At-Risk Youth: College Prep Ministry' during the week and on Saturdays would have a 'fresh start' in their development. We have a Mentoring Ministry at CABC; however they only meet once a month on the Fourth Sunday. Some of their outreach program has been the "Debutante Cotillion", mentoring youth from 9-17 years of age and 'One on One' discussions after church on Sundays. As an educator, I strongly feel that these high school students should have access to SAT prep classes, mentoring and computers during weekdays and on Saturdays to help them excel in their studies. If the high school students had access to professionals like 'Kaplan SAT Prep Classes,' it would help to prepare them academically for the college admissions process. Kaplan started in Brooklyn, 75 years ago, when founder Stanley Kaplan started tutoring his high school classmates to prepare for the state Regents and SAT exams. Since that time, Kaplan SAT Prep Classes has helped many high school students score high on their SAT and Regents exams. I think it would be good to bring Kaplan SAT Prep course to CABC for the high school students in the Hamilton Heights area, who may be taking the exams in the spring of 2013. Students will learn strategies and how to navigate these exams and bring up their SAT and Regents scores. As a result, our at-risk high school students will be better prepared for the college admissions process.

In the last year of my Masters of Divinity Program, I had the opportunity to intern with "U-Turn," a non-for-profit for At-Risk Youth, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. C. Vernon Mason. Dr. Mason (C.E.O. & Founder of Fund for Community Leadership Development, Inc.) recruited young men from the Sing-Sing Prison, in Peekskill, New York to serve as mentors/ facilitators for 'at-risk' youth, who may be in foster homes, in danger of academic failure, returning to jail or getting into trouble. This type of at-risk/mentoring program is needed at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church. Many of our own high school students fall into this category as well. This Demonstration Project—"Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" in the Hamilton Heights Area of Harlem, will help 'at-risk' youth to get the necessary help they need to succeed in life. Many of them are going through difficult times and need a 'Lifeline' to survive. It is important to have a mentor or a 'life coach' to encourage them each step of the way. We want to make sure that they can see their "Dream Come Alive." At the same time, student's lives will be "Transformed for the Glory of God."

Our Mentoring At-Risk Youth: College Prep Program will be a place, where students can come three times a week and on Saturdays to talk about their dreams and aspirations. Our team of mentors will be able to encourage and motivate students to stay in school. Our first priority would be to build up their self-esteem so that transformation can take place in their lives. They will be open to more possibilities. They will be able to take their rightful place in society and become productive citizen. It is our hope that one day, they too, will become mentors themselves. They will be able to reach back and bring someone else along. Some of the educational resources will be: mentoring, (Kaplan) SAT prep classes, leadership skills, and building self-esteem among high school students. The

expected outcome of the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: College Prep Program" would be able to prepare the students for the future through long and short-term goals of the program. We will be able to transform their lives through one-on-one (individual) and group counseling. The Site Team will be overseeing my Demonstration Project and supporting the project's activities. The second group will be active in the day to day mentoring program. I will be interviewing congregants to be mentors and recruiting professional in our church to be mentors to our at-risk youth. On Saturday for 10 weeks Kaplan SAT prep classes will be given to bring up SAT scores and prepare our high school students for the college admissions process. Through workshops, town hall meetings, conferences, field trips to museums, we hope to convince our youth that it is "doable." They too, can be successful in school and they can be anything they want to be. They are not alone. God is with them every step of the way. At the end of ten weeks, we will evaluate their progress again through online reporting tools, journaling, feedback and school report cards, to see if the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: College Prep Program" was a success. This Demonstration Project on "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry" in the Hamilton Heights Area of Harlem will give them a second chance in life. It will build character and integrity, and most of all, enable them to believe in themselves.

CHAPTER 3 PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION

Goals and Strategies:

Goal 1: To 'Raise the Awareness' of the members of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church on the problems of education within the Harlem Community. Through a Panel discussion and a movie "Superman," the Harlem Community will be more informed about the needs of our high school students. The focus of the discussion will be 'raising the awareness' in community and develop ways to 'level the playing field' for our high school students in the community.

Strategy 1: Show movie entitled "Superman" to see if there is a need for a 'College Prep Ministry' in the Church and community.

Strategy 2: Panel Discussion after the movie (Superman).

EVALUATION OF GOAL 1: Pre and Post Questionnaire. What did they learn from the discussion that they did not know before? 50 % participants will complete a 'PRE and POST' questionnaire.

Goal 2: Design a Team for the Mentoring At-Risk: College Prep Ministry and recruit/select 25 students and 10 adults from church, the Hamilton Heights Community and local high school to participate in the "Mentoring At-Risk: College Prep Ministry" at CABC.

Strategy 1: Determine the Criteria for the selection of At-Risk High School Students for the program.

Strategy 2: Recruit 25 Students and 10 adults in the church to become mentors to students.

Strategy 3: Provide a 1 day workshop on 'Mentoring At-Risk Student' to educate prospective mentors.

EVALUATION OF GOAL 2: Feedback from high school students through discussions and Pre/Post questionnaires.

Goal 3: Create the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: College Prep Ministry" and guideline to facilitate the program.

Strategy 1: Set up a manual on how to "Mentor At-Risk Youth."

Strategy 2: Set up time limits for group and individual counseling.

Strategy 3: Set aside rooms for the discussions/workshops, conferences and fairs.

EVALUATION OF GOAL 3: Set up guidelines for 'Mentoring At-Risk by March 2013.

Goal 4: Implement the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: College Prep Ministry.

Strategy 1: Group Discussion on "Building Self-Esteem' and relevant topics (cyber-bullying, internet (Facebook) and "Safe Space" during the weekdays.

Strategy 2: Start Kaplan SAT prep class on Saturday for 10 weeks to prepare high school students for the College Admissions Process.

Strategy 3: Setting up spiritual components for 'Mentoring At-Risk: College Prep Ministry.'

EVALUATION OF GOAL 4: Through internet data, feedback, personal stories, report cards from high school students and parents' feedback will let us know if the "Mentoring At-Risk: College Prep Ministry" was successful.

CHAPTER 4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Historical:

What is role of the Black Church in preparing our young men and women for the College Admission Process? What percentage of these students was accepted into college and finished? How can the African-American Church best support our youth to be successful in society? What can our At-Risk youth take away from Joseph's story in the Bible (Genesis 39:4-5)?

Joseph was sold into slavery for twenty pieces of silver. Yet he did not give up.

Joseph was brought down to Egypt. In Genesis 39:3 "And His master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hands. And Joseph found grace in his sight and he served him and he served him and he made him overseer over this house and all that he had, he put into his hands." As a result, the Lord blessed the Egyptian house for Joseph sake. God bless all that he had in this house and in the fields. Even though Joseph was a slave, God protected him and elevated him while he was a slave in Potiphar's House. God blessed Joseph with gifts and talents. This Biblical story of Joseph will encourage the At-Risk youth to trust God. Even though you might not see Him, He is there in the mist of your situation. Don't give up, God is in control. He is able to bless you where you are.

⁵ All biblical citations will be according to the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

Biblical/Theological:

What new hermeneutical or critical methodological approaches that can prepare our young people for the College Admission Process? What pertinent exegesis of biblical themes or passages would serve this Demonstration Project well? What Biblical Characters can we model for our At-Risk Youth today? What are some of the ways an African-American Church can prepare and motivate young people "press on?"

One Biblical example we can model today, is Daniel. In Daniel 1: 3-4, 17-20, he is taken into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, the King. Daniel was young, intelligent and skillful in wisdom. The 'one' God thought was good. The King asked the master of his eunuchs to bring certain children of Israel, without blemish, to the court to be taught and trained in the language of Chaldeans. Daniel and 3 Hebrew Boys (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) were brought to the court. Daniel loved the Lord. He refused to compromise his faith and customs of his religion. As a result, Daniel and the 3 Hebrew Boys were thrown into the Fiery Furnace because they disobeyed Nebuchadnezzar's law. Nebuchadnezzar had set the furnace seven times hotter than before. God saved them. The king had to admit that God was God. The most important point to take away from this story about Daniel and the Three Hebrew Boys is to have "faith in God" and remember what you were taught. This is a good example of being in a strange land and not knowing what's going to happen. One has to hold on to their faith to guide them all the way. There are times when God will use you to teach others a lesson in humanity.

Faith Rooted Organizing Social Justice:

What are some of the ways we can build partnerships and coalitions so that people of faith can participate in preparing our young people with integrity, contributing our

unique gifts and resources strategically to the broader movement for justice in society?

How do we understand the role our spiritual gifts play in working together to create change and the ability to enable others to identify and utilize their gifts in a team context?

How can the African-American church best support our young people and 'level the playing field' for them? What do we have to do to make it a reality for our youth today?

Jesus taught by example. In the Gospel According to Matthews 5: 1-9 Jesus, seeing the multitude, went up into a mountain and began to teach his disciples and the people. In Matthews 5:2 "And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Jesus was concerned about the welfare of the "least of these." Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, preformed miracles and gave us many examples on how to treat one another. That is why it is so important for our churches and community organizations come together to discuss ways to educated our children and prepare them for the future. We have to start somewhere. Teaching our young people about being honest, trustworthy, and being fair can be a start. Jesus taught his disciples and the multitude on many topics and the Golden Rule was one of them in Matthews 7:7-12. Jesus gave his disciples and the world to pattern our lives by. The Bible will give them encouragement, when life gets difficult to handle. Jesus cared about all people especially the "least of these." We, as an African-American Church, should be concerned about the direction our educational system is going. We have to do what we can to "level the playing field" for our African-American and Latino youth who are atrisk in our community.

CHAPTER 5 EVALUATION PROCESS

Method of Evaluation 1

During the month of February 2013, we will be 'raising the awareness' of educational issues within the community (Strategy 1:1-2). March 2013 (Strategy 2:1-3) High School Students will be interviewed and given Kaplan' Pre-SAT Test and Instructional lessons. Data will be collected online and analyzed to see if the program worked.

Method of Evaluation 2

Students will be evaluated through test and instructional time. The first week of March, 2013 members of the church and community will have a chance to discuss issues in education that affect the Hamilton Heights Area of the Harlem Community. A Pre and Post questionnaires will be completed by all attendees. Goal 2: Data will be collected and analysis for the future evaluation of this Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project.

Method of Evaluation 3

Goals 3 and 4 will be implemented in the beginning of February through May of 2013. Through tests and instructional sessions, data will be collected and analyzed upon the completion of the 10 week Kaplan SAT Test Prep course. The results of the data will "track" the overall progress of these high school students, during the Mentoring At-Risk Youth: College Prep Ministry Program and show how prepared they are for the May 4th, 2013 SAT Test. These test results will be used for the "College Admissions Process."

CHAPTER 6 MINISTERIAL COMPETENCIES

The Process:

The members of the Site Team dedicated substantial time and energy in joining me in the process of competency assessment. The Site Team Members involved were: Brother William Aiken, Sr. (Sunday school teacher and published author); Trustee Sheila Brandenberg (Trustee and accountant & CEO), Chairman of Trustees/Deacon Calvin Martin, Deacon Joseph Hand, and Dr. Lola Langley (CEO Healing Hope Ministry & Over Sunday school teachers of the CABC), and Mrs. Richardson, a Sunday School Teacher and Children and Youth Advisor.

A summary of the Site Team's and my Assessments of Ministerial Competencies is as follows.

The Assessment:

As a Theologian—Student understands the Doctrine of the Church, scriptures and sociology. She can articulate it to the church and the community of faith. She is able to recognize ethical issues and make ethical decisions based on the "Word of God" to the Faith Community. The qualifying word the Site Team Assigned: "Attention."

As a Preacher—The Student has a strong delivery, good organization, Biblical Interpretation of the scripture that help the congregation to grow and mature in the Spirit. Her sermons address the contemporary concerns of the community. She addresses current

and social injustice issues in her sermons and put it to practice in the Harlem Community.

It is Bible Based.

The qualifying word the Site Team Assigned: "Continue."

As a Worship Leader—The Student has the ability to make the worship service come alive. But needs to continue to develop sacred music and bring new songs to increase the understanding of the liturgical message. As a worship leader the student is an Anointed woman of God. She encourages the congregation to share their own testimony as to "What God has done for them?" She has taken some action to help her quest for master worship leader with a speech coach to better prepare her for the Ministry God has called her to. The qualifying word the Site Team Assigned: "Continue."

As a Prophetic Agent—The Student has been given a tremendous gift of discernment and prophecy. She is committed to the transformation of the church, community and world. She has a love people and has empathy for those who are victimized by social injustice. Her passion is to create a youth program to insure the future of the Youth. In past observation, the student shows potential need to unite the church institution with the Harlem's Community. She is working for a new change in the church and the community for the Kingdom of God so that our youth will have a future. The Oualifying word the Site Team Assigned: "Develop."

As a Leader—The Student works well with the Site Team and take suggestion very well. She has the ability to provide support and to follow up on the initiatives of others. She has the ability and willingness to share knowledge and resources with other for a greater good. We think all apply. The qualifying word the Site Team has Assigned: "Continue."

As a Religious Educator—The Student has the ability to communicate religious concepts to all age groups. She has the ability to analyze, teach, train and supervise other religious leaders, even though she is not be utilized in those areas of the church. We find no basis for this assessment for this student. The qualifying word the Site Team Assigned: "No Basis."

As a Counselor—The Student is an open, honest, and genuine person. She is accessible and an approachable person. She is skilled in many areas of the ministry. She is able to aid in healing, restoration and able to help others through difficult times of their lives. She holds a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from CNR, Masters in Leadership, Adult Education and Human Resources from Fordham University, and a Masters of Divinity from NYTS. She is more than qualified to mentor young at-risk youth in our church. These skills have been transferred into the church setting. As the Site Team, we think the student knows and performs most of all of the criteria listed. *The qualifying word the Site Team Assigned: 'Continue.*"

As a Pastor—The Student is an Associate Minister of the CABC. She is not in the role of a pastor. One of her ministries is the Greater Harlem Nursing Home. She visits the sick and shut-in and conducts/preaches on Sunday Mornings for the residence of the GHNH. She understands a practice "Soul Care" and "Self-Care." Even thought she is not in the pastor's role, the student works wherever she is needed in the church. The Qualifying word the Site Team Assigned: "No Basis."

As a Spiritual Leader—The Student set an example in her own observation of spiritual discipline including the ability to observe the Sabbath Day. She takes time to go to retreats to refresh and renew herself for service in the Lord. She puts God first in her

life. She is a faithful steward. She attends Bible Study, Teaches New Members

Orientation, Worship Leader for the 7 AM Praise and Worship Service, and the Bible

Study Coordinator the Wednesday, Bible Study Classes. She seeks to grow spiritually

and mature in the Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We want her to develop and

'hone' into her gifts of the spirits. The qualifying word the Site Team Assigned:

"Continue."

As an Ecumenist—The Student has the ability to foster dialogue across denominational, confessional, cultural and religious line of the community. She has participated in the "Living Wage Coalition of New York City." She collaborated with pastors, ministers, union representatives, and civil activist to March for economic justice for those whose wages are below minimum wages standards in the City of New York. She is a humble woman who is willing to learn from others and to be challenged by other tradition of faith. She is sensitive to others and is willing to work with them for a common goal. The qualifying word the Site Team Assigned: "No Basis."

As a Witness or Evangelist—The Student is active in her church and community.

She has been a strong witness for the Lord in her church and the Harlem Community.

She seeks to insure the future integrity of God's Word and is committed to spreading the Word of God al over the world. She encourages other to seek Jesus Christ as their personal savior. The qualifying word the Site Team Assigned: "Continue."

As an Administrator—The Student shows great strength. She has earned a Masters in Leadership, Adult Education and Human Resources. She has the ability to lead the congregation and community in the process for a better community that will be a youth program for them to better themselves and stay in school. Some of the areas

mentioned have not been assessed by the group. It's a "Work in Progress." The Qualifying word the Site Team has assigned: "Develop."

As a Professional—The Student demonstrates a positive professional attitude toward self and others. She is open, honest and personable in relation to the congregation and the community. She has demonstrates a professional attitude at all times and is dependable. She is able to separate personal from professional relationships. She takes care of herself so that she is able to care for others. The qualifying word the Site Team Has Assigned: "Develop."

As a Faith-Based Community Organizer—the Student is concerned about Justice Issues facing our Harlem Community. She is active in the "Living Wage" Coalition of New York City and often attends monthly meeting to strategize with Faith-Base Leaders of the community. She has been active in the "Movement," we want her to Continue to work with the Living Wage Coalition of NYC and become the 'Point Leader' for the church. The qualifying word the Site Team has Assigned: "Continue."

This process of the Ministerial Competence Assessment was very helpful to me. I

(Minister Evelyn J. Perkins) am very grateful to the Site Team for allowing the Holy

Spirit to work through them

COMPETENCES CHOSEN FOR DEVELOPMENT"

1. Preaching:

Strategies:

- a. I will attend one Preaching Conference and audit one preaching class.
- b. I will preach three series sermons on At-Risk Youth in the Bible.

Evaluation:

A) Create a questionnaire for students and parents to give feedback about the sermon.

2. Community Organizer:

Strategies:

- A) I will attend "Living Wage Coalition" Meeting in the city.
- B) Build Relationships/liaisons between the Convent Avenue Baptist Church and Faith-Based Organizations.

Evaluation:

A) CABC and the "Mentoring At-Risk: College Prep Ministry" in the Hamilton Heights will be more informed about programs that will benefit the community at large.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1Timeline

TIMELINE

Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry

Date	Task/Activity	Tools/Necessary to complete task	Person Responsible
2/2013	Proposal Approval by Director		Me
2/2013	Meet with Advisor Goal 1 – Strategy 1 2 Hr. Interview Prospective Mentors	Copy of Approved Proposal Echo, Flyer, Brochures Manual	Me Site Team Me
2/2013	Meet with Site Team	Location Rental	Me
2/2013	Meet with Parents Guardians Train Mentors	Copy of Guidelines	Me
2/2013	Goal 1 – Strategy 2	Meet H.S. Students	Site Team, Kaplan & Me.
2/2013	Goal 2, Strategy 1-3	Team Building	
2/2013	Kaplan SAT Prep/Mentoring Begins	Kaplan SAT Prep/Mentoring Group/Individual counseling/discussion	Site Team, Mentors & me

3/2013	Movie (Superman & Panel discussion)	Pre and Post Questionnaires	Me
	Kaplan College Prep Ends Library Time for gathering data,	All online data and information gathered during the implementation of Strategy 1,2 & 3 Implementation of Goal 2-4 Strategy 1, 2, & 3	Me
2010	Writing and Research.	implementation of coal 2 + stategy 1, 2, etc	
		Wrapping Up Mentoring At-Risk: College Prep Ministry	
5/2013	Library Time for Evaluation		Me
5/2013	Evaluation & Analyze Mentoring/ College Prep Program		

Appendix 2 Budget BUDGET

Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry

Date	Task/Activity	Tools/Necessary to complete task	Person Responsible	Budgetary consideration/Cost	Source of Funding
2/2013	Proposal Approval by Director Meet with Advisor	Copy of Approved Proposal	Me	\$500.	Personal
2/2013	Goal 1 – Strategy 1	Echo, Flyers, Brochures, Advertisement/Speakers/Location Rental	Me	\$500	Site Team*
2/2013	1 Day Workshop	Mentors	Me	Volunteers from CABC	Site Team & Me
2/2013	Meet with Site Team	Location Donated	Ме	0.00	In kind contribution by local church
2/2013	Orientation: Meet with Parents/Guardians	Copy of Mentoring At-Risk: College Prep Ministry' Program for H.S. Students	Ме	\$200	Me
2/2013	Kaplan SAT Prep(Saturdays)	Kaplan SAT Prep Programs	Me & Site Team Me	\$5690.00	Sponsors & Me
2/2013- 5/2013	Goal 1, 2,3,4 & Strategy 1, 2, & 3	Kaplan Sat Prep & Mentoring Group,	Me & Site Team	\$200.00	Sponsors, Site Team & Me
3/2013	Movie & Panel Discussion	Movie, flyers, Echo, Advertisement/Speakers	Me & Site Team	\$200.00	Me
3/2013- 5/2013	Mentoring Begins & worship services	CABC Youth, Parents and High School Students.	Ме	Donated by CABC	Site Team, Volunteers & Me

Date	Task/Activity	Tools/Necessary to complete task	Person Responsible	Budgetary consideration/Cost	Source of Funding
5/2013	Collecting Data/ Evaluation Of Mentoring At Risk: College Prep Ministry	All of the online data and information gathered during the implementation of Strategy 1,2 & 3 Completion of Goal 1, 2, 3& 4.	Me	Car Fare, Gas/Tolls/ Copying, etc. \$100.	Site Team and Me
5/2013	Library Time for Gathering Online Data, Writing and Research	Lab top computer	Site Team, H.S. Students, Parents & Me	Donated by church.	Ме
5/2013	Mentoring AT-Risk: College Prep Ministry Program Ends	Mentoring At-Risk: College Prep Ministry Closing Program (All Participants in the program.)	Ме	\$200.	Site Team, Me & Volunteers
				Total \$7,590.00	

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APPENDIX B 1ST EDUCATIONAL 'AWARENESS' SUMMIT

1ST EDUCATIONAL 'AWARENESS' SUMMIT

The 1st Educational 'Awareness' Summit was held at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church on March 1, 2013. The purpose of the "Awareness' Summit was to bring 'Awareness' to the church and the Harlem Community concerning the "LACK" of educational programs and resources for our at-risk youth. As a part of my Doctor of Ministry's Demonstration Project on "Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Prep Ministry," one of the first things to do was to hold an "Educational 'Awareness' Summit and invite the church, community, politicians and faith-based leaders to come together to discuss issues that are plaguing our neighborhood. And come up with viable solutions to solve the problem. These are some of the visual pictures of the event. Twenty 'Pre' and 'Post' Questionnaires of the event were distributed and only six returned. There were too many Pre' and 'Post' Questionnaires to include in the Appendix Section. Some of the Pre and Post answers were not clear. But they will be available upon request. The data from these questionnaires are listed in different sections after the event.



Figure 1 Evelyn J. Perkins and high school students.



Evelyn J. Perkins and the African-American Experience College Fair October 19, 2013 10am-3pm

"1st EDUCATIONAL AWAWARENESS' SUMMIT"

ON at-risk youth"

(Flyer)

"This is a discussion, we need to have in our Community.

"Why are our children at-risk?"

When: Friday, March 1, 2013 at 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Where: Convent Avenue Baptist Church

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr., Senior Pastor.

Min. Evelyn J. Perkins-Chairperson/Facilitator

CABC-Lecture Hall

420 West 145th Street

New York, N.Y. 10031

"Waiting for Superman" (6:00pm - 6:45pm)

Discussion (6:45pm -7:15pm)

PART 2: PANEL DISCUSSION (7:15pm-8:30pm)

· at-risk youth in our Community

Poverty-Social/Economic Issues

- · Immigration/Dream Act
- · Charter Schools vs. Public Schools

Our elected official and special guest speakers will be here to discuss these topics. Info. Contact Min. Evelyn J. Perkins success2007@verizon.net



"Changed People, changing the community and the world for Jesus Christ"

Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. Senior Pastor

Monday, October 7, 2013

Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. Senior Pastor of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church 420 West 145th Street New York, New York 10031

Dear Pastor Williams,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. First I want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule on September 17, 2013 to discuss my D. Min. Project and the SAT Prep Course held during the spring of 2013. The Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course has helped so many students. Their grades and SAT Scores went up One student's SAT Score went up 500 points. CABC has received so much positive comments on the Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course. It has been replicated by Councilman Jackson and Kaplan in three places (Harlem and Washington Heights). As a result, I would like to bring Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course back to Convent for the spring of 2014. It would last for 10 weeks. I was wondering if CABC could sponsor this course, until we secure funding for it. In our conversation of September 17, 2013, you had expressed interest in "keeping this program here." It would be of great service to our youth and the Harlem Community as well. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Attached please, find a copy of the previous Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep flyer.

Yours in Christ.

Minister Evelyn J. Perkins, one of your Associate Ministers of CABC and Doctor of

Ministry Candidate at New York Theological Seminary

cc: Chair - Board of Deacons - Catherine Coleman of CABC

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CONVENT AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

"Changed People, changing the community and the world for Jesus Christ"

Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. Senior Pastor

May 6, 2013

Rev. Lydell C. Lettsome Convent Avenue Baptist Church Children and Youth Church 425 West 144th Street New York, New York 10031

OFFICIAL LETTER

Dear Rev. Lettsome,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. First, I want to thank you for your support with the recruitment of high school students for the Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course. I am happy to report that we had an enrollment of 14 students from all across the city (A. Philip Randolph High School Campus, Truman High School in the Bronx, New Jersey, Mt. Vernon and Far Rockaway, and Queens.) These High School At-Risk Students were helped. As a result of the 10 week class, many high school students were blessed with strategies that would prepare these At-Risk high school students for the "College Admission Process." It is my hope that we will continue this "Mentoring Program" for At-Risk Youth. On Friday, May 24th, 2013 at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church's Lecture Hall from 6-7:30 pm, there will be a 'Closing/Dinner' to honor these high school students and their achievements. Certificates will be given to participants in the program. I would like to extend an invitation to you to come-and fellowship with us. You may contact me at success2007@verizon.net or by telephone 718-671-4405. Thanks again for you support.

Yours in Christ,

Minister Evelyn J. Verkins, Associate Minister of Convent Avenue Baptist Church &

Doctor of Ministry Candidate at NYTS.

Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr., Senior Pastor of Convent Avenue Baptist Church Cc: Deacon Catherine L. Coleman – Chair of the Board of Deacons CABC R.S.V.P.

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CONVENT AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

"Changed People, changing the community and the world for Jesus Christ"

Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. Senior Pastor

May 6, 2013

Chancellor Dennis Walcott New York City Department of Education 32 Chambers Street New York, New York 10007

OFFICIAL LETTER

Dear Chancellor Walcott,

I am a Doctor of Ministry Candidate at New York Theological Seminary. My Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project focus on 'Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry." The focus of my demonstration project centers on "Mentoring At-Risk Youth" in the Hamilton Heights Area of Harlem and preparing them for the 'College Admissions Process.' On February 2, 2013, I started off my "Mentoring" project with a 10 week "Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course" for students in the Harlem Community. There were 14 students from all over the city (A. Philip Randolph Campus High School, Truman High School, Far Rockaway, Queens, Teaneck New Jersey and Mt. Vernon, New York), who attended the class. I had a chance to witness first hand the transformation in these students' lives by helping them prepare for their future and take their right place in society. The last class was on April 27, 2013. I know that this Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course will help them to bring their SAT scores up and enable them to obtain a better Financial Aid Package.

On Friday, May 24, 2013 from 6 -7:30pm, we will be having a Closing/Dinner (6-8pm) at Convent Avenue Baptist Church-Lecture Hall 420 West 145th Street for these students, who participated in the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth Program. Certificates will be given to them for their 'hard work and perseverance.' This is the first of this type of Educational Programs in the church geared toward preparing our young people for the College Admissions Process. I hope you can join us. I can be reached at success2007@verizon.net or by telephone 718-671-4405. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Minister Evelyn J. Perkins, An Associate Minister of the Convent Avenue Baptist

Church & Doctor of Ministry Candidate at New York Theological Seminary, Manhattan.

Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr., Sr. Pastor of the CABC in Harlem R.S.V.P.

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My Folders No Folders		That is great news! I will distribute the flyer you sent to me and we will target Thank you for all you are doing for our students and the community. Sincerely,
Message Cen	ter Storage	David Fanning Principal (IA) A. Philip Randolph Campus High School

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Verizon Message Center

Tuesday, Dec 18 at 5:50 PM

success2007@verizon.net From:

lbm_dst14@yahoo.com, success2007@verizon.net

Kaplan SA1 test prep at CABC Subject:

Good Afternoon Minister Jackson,

I hope everything is well with you and your family. I am in the Doctor of Ministry Program at NYTS. In the spring I will be implementing my demonstration project. Last week I met with Dr. Lundy she narrow down my proposal entitled "Mentoring young At-Risk Ycuth in the Hamilton Heights Area of Hamlem." She wants me to focus on "College Prep." I have secured Kaplan SAt prep to come in on Saturdays at CABC to teach "SAT Prep Course" for 10 weeks, which will be leading up to the May 4, 2013 SAT test. Rev. Logan asked me to get in touch with you. He said," There maybe some adults that could use this as well. The fee is \$300. for 10 sessions. Here are the days:

Saturday- Feb. 2, 9, 23, March 2, 9, 16, and April 6, 13, 20 & 27. from 9AM to 1 PM. On instructional days they will get out at 12 noon.

Thank you for sharing this with your Young Adult Ministry. Have a wonderful Christmas.

Yours in Christ, Min. Evelyn J. Perkins

verizon Verizon Message Center

Tuesday, Jan 8 at 3:42 PM

Michelle Velasquez <michelle.velasquez@kaplan.com> From:

To: success2007@verizon.net

SAT course for Convent Avenue Baptist Church Subject:

Good afternoon Minister,

I am working with Jane Berkowitz to set up the SAT course for the Church. Below is the schedule she sent me that has been worked out. I just want to confirm that the dates and times I have are correct. Also, can you provide me with the address to where the classes will be held? Jane mentioned they would take place at the education building near the Church.

Thank you and we look forward to a successful partnership.

```
1 Saturday 02/02/2013 09:00 AM - 01:30 PM SAT Diagnostic: Practice Test 1 2 Saturday 02/09/2013 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM Classroom Session 1 3 Saturday 02/23/2013 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM Classroom Session 2 4 Saturday 03/02/2013 09:00 AM - 01:00 PM Practice Test 2 5 Saturday 03/09/2013 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM Classroom Session 3 6 Saturday 03/16/2013 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM Classroom Session 4 7 Saturday 04/06/2013 09:00 AM - 01:00 PM Practice Test 3 Saturday 04/06/2013 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM Classroom Session 5 9 Saturday 04/13/2013 09:00 AM - 01:00 PM Practice Test 4 10 Saturday 04/20/2013 09:00 AM - 01:00 PM Practice Test 4 10 Saturday 04/27/2013 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM Classroom Session 6
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Michelle Velásquez

K12 Program Specialist NYC, Westchester, LI Kapian K-12 & College Prep p. 646.380.2218 | m. 201.218.9158

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verizon Verizon Message Center

Wednesday, Jan 23 at 5:58 AM

From: success2007@verizon.net

success2007@verizon.net, sbrandenberg@optonline.net, Billpoetry@aol.com,

JoeHand57@aol.com

Subject:Re: Re: Site Team Meeting Tomorrow 3/22/12

Good Morning Site Team Members,

I hope you are staying warm, this cold morning. As you know, tomorrow is Orientation for Kaplan SAT Prep Course at CABC for high school students. The orientation will began at 6pm on the third floor of the educational bldg. High School Students from CABC and A. Philip Randolph High School will be here with their parents. A representative from Kaplan will be here to discuss the details of the SAT Prep Course here at CABC. We have receive 2 more scholarships, which bring the total to 16. I hope all of you can make it,

Last Friday, I had a chance to sit down with Dr. _undy and go over my proposal. She made some changes that I am now adding. It has to be in by February 1, 2013. I'm going to talk to her again to see if I can print it and turn it in.

Best Regards, Minister Evelyn J. Perkins

On 11/09/12, success2007@verizon.net wrote:

Good Evening Site Team Members.

Hope everything is well with you and your family. Welcome Back! On October 15-19 was the beginning of the 2nd year of the D.Min. Since then, I have been working on my proposal which is due tomorrow. I sent it to an editor on 10/31. I am waiting for the proposal to be edited and return to me. So that it can be turned in tomorrow. In the mean time, Dr. Lundy (Director of Doctor of Ministry) asked not be speak to the Mentoring Ministry of CABC. I attended their meeting and they will get back to me on what I can do to help them. Thursday, I have an appointment with one local High School principal on the project. I have been attending the Children & Youth Church as well. But I cannot do any thing until it is approved by Dr. Lundy. We only had a few days to get it together. What helped me out is the fact I had sent one the end of June to them. There are some additional things I have to add to it. I just want to update you on the project. I will be scheduling a meeting as soon as I get the checked/edited copy of my proposal. Thank you again for your participation in the project. the project.

Yours in Christ, Min. Evelyn Perkins

On 03/22/12, sbrandenberg@optonline.net wrote:

On my way don't wait to start. Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: success2007@verizon.net
Date: Wed, 21 Mar 2012 10:06:52 -0500 (CDT)
To; <success2007@verizon.net>; <sbrandenberg@optonline.net>; <Billpoetry@aol.com>;

<Calvinjoppa@aol.com>; <Joehand57@aol.com> Subject: Re:Site Team Meeting Tomorrow 3/22/12

Peace and Grace to Everyone,



"Changed People, changing the community and the world for Jesus Christ"

Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. Senior Pastor

January 29, 2013

Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. Senior Pastor of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church 420 West 145th Street, 2nd Fl. New York, New York 10031

Dear Dr. Williams,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God has been good. I was asked by the Dean to come into the Doctor of Ministry (Micah) Program in December of 2011 at the New York Theological Seminary located in Manhattan. We had a late start, yet, we were able to catch up with D. Min. workload. I am now in my second year of the Doctor of Ministry (Micah) Program, which is in 'Leadership and Community Organizing in Social Justice.' When I came into the Doctor of Ministry (Micah) Program in February, 2012, I was asked what my Demonstration Project would focus on? As a preacher and educator, I have found that there is a lack of educational programs for the at-risk youth in our church and Harlem Community. An At-Risk Youth is one who is socially/economically deprived, born in poverty, may be homeless, reading below the state standardize test or it could be a high school student who did not receive their high school diplomas. There are many reasons why our high school students are at-risk. My Doctor of Ministry's Demonstration Project will center on "Preparing our young At-Risk Youth for the College Admissions Process" in our church and the Hamilton Heights Area of Harlem. My Demonstration Project Proposal is now being considered. It will take time for NYTS approve my project, but I have been working with my director/advisor, Dr. Wanda M. Lundy. As I explained in December (at the Staff Luncheon) that Kaplan is one of the best SAT Prep Services in the Country. In order to achieve my goal, I have asked the Kaplan K12 Learning Services will assist me in preparing our young people for the college admissions process with a ten week 'Kaplan SAT Prep Course' from February 2, 2013 - April 27th (9-1pm on Saturdays) for the May 4th 2013 exam. I would like to use room 311 for the Kaplan-taught SAT Prep Course and 310 to use before the class on Saturdays. Through individual sponsors, I am able to offer 16 'FREE' spaces for needy students in our church and community.

420 West 145th Street • New York, NY 10031 • Tel. (212) 234-6767 • Fax (212) 234-6019 www.conventchurch.org Kaplan has asked if we could have a space for them to come for help, during the week, to assist in homework assignments. With limited budget, it might not be feasible at this time.

On March 1, 2013, with your approval, I would like to use the Fellowship Hall from 6 pm-9 pm for a movie and Educational Focus group to discuss educational issues in the Harlem Community.

Many thank you Pastor Williams and Board of Deacons' Chair, Catherine Coleman, and leaders for helping me to create and develop a "College Prep Ministry" that will serve the church and the community as well. This Kaplan-taught SAT Prep Course will help At-Risk youth in our church and community to be more prepared for the college admissions process and take their rightful place in society.

Yours in Christ,

Min. Emly Sirkins Minister Evelyh J. Perkins, Associate Minister &

Doctor of Ministry Student at New York Theological Seminary

Cc: Catherine Coleman (Chair - Board of Deacon of CABC)

Good Morning Jane,
Would Monday, July 22, 2013 be okay with you at 5pm? If not then I can change it to Tuesday?
Evelyn

On 06/20/13, Jane Berkowitzjane.berkowitz@kaplan.com> wrote:
Evelyn
My boss is in town next week from CA. He wants to meet with me on Thursday
June 27 in the afternoon.

Can we reschedule our get together for July 2? I can meet you at the
Convent Baptist Church at noon and then we can go to Sylvia's.

Let me know if this works for you.

Thank you, Jane Berkowitz

Zecutive Director of Educational Partnerships
Kaplan K12 & College Prep
NYC Districts: 1,3,5, 6, 9,10,13,14,15, 20, 31
T. 718-926-4858
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Jane Berkowitz
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jane berkowitz@kaplan.com

https://mail.verizon.com/webmail/public/print.jsp?wid=vz_widget_MailOpen_0&type=ma... 9/17/2013

APPENDIX C PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

The Response to the Plan of Implementation of the "Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Prep Ministry" was implemented on February 2, 2013 at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church Educational Building located 425 West 144th Street, in Harlem. Some of the strategies, goals and evaluations are listed below. Goals and Strategy:

To Raise the "Awareness" of the Members of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church on the problems of education with in the Harlem Community. I stated that I would show a film entitled "Waiting for Superman." It was done.

* Strategy 1 was to show "Waiting for Superman and see if there was a need for a "College Prep Ministry" in Convent. According to the surveys taken at the conference. Most of the people said, "Yes." Strategy 2. I said I would have a Panel Discussion to discuss the film "Waiting for Superman." It was shown and we had a big discussion on the top. One of the main issues that came from the discussion was "Charter Schools vs. Public Schools." Some parents were upset that the charter schools are taking funding from the public schools. There were several politician, two social workers, Speaker Christine Quinn and Councilman Robert Jackson sent representatives as well to the "1st Educational 'Awareness' Summit." Parents had a chance to share their views on many issues concerning the Harlem Community. And they offered suggestions on how to solve them. When it was over, individuals were asking me if they could volunteer to talk to the students or help them in any way. To call them and they would come and help. One individual from CABC Mentoring Ministry said she learned something from the

Movie "Waiting for Superman" and now she has a different take on what I was trying to do. She said that she would go back to the Mentoring Ministry of the church and talk to them about expanding their ministry to help the "At-risk youth" in our church and the community. It was an "eye opening" experience for a lot of the congregants, because they had a chance to express their feeling about Charter Schools and Public Schools. One of the things that distress me most was the fact that Charter Schools would take these kids and if they don't do well they would send them back to the public schools in January and keep the money the state and federal government had given them to teach these kids." Instead of sending the money back with the student, they would keep the funds in their school. Then there was a problem with space. Charter Schools would take the best spots in the school or the larger class room for their program. There was a problem with 'lunch breaks' as well. There has to be more changes in the Department of Education for these things to work. In the Pre and Post Surveys you will get a glimpse of how they really felt about issues in the community and if there was a need for a "College Prep Ministry" in the church. What we can do as a community to correct things. See Appendix J for the "Pre and Post" Questionnaire Surveys.

EVALUATION OF GOALS: in my proposal I asked a question, "What did they learn from the discussion that they did not know before? 50% participants would complete the "Pre and Post" questionnaire. I passed out 20 and only 6 returned the survey. But it was enough to reach a consensus about the "1st Educational 'Awareness' Summit." This is a summary of the 6 surveys that was returned to me.

Here are the questions asked on the surveys and the answers that we received from the audience.

1. What do you hope to gain from seeing 'Waiting for Superman'?

Answer: Better understanding about youth woes, create more youth programs. (5 answered the question and 1 was left blank.)

Name an Issue that should be discussed, tonight? Answer: Co-Location, Parental Support, Union Vs Charter Schools, Student Activities (4 out of the 6 answered the question).

How many children do yo	ou have in high school? (1 in high school and zero in charter school.
My main concern is	They had to fill in the blank with the answer.
Most of the people said: 1	Early Childhood and after School, Funding, and High School Drop-
Outs, reclaiming our your	th, performance, and teachers termination, denial of tenure and
curriculum. Overall, the	questions about Early Childhood, after school and Drop-Outs were the
major concerns of the par	rents, who attended the summit, POST OUESTIONS:

- 1. What did you learn that you did not know before?"

 Answers: Challenges affecting our youth, passing the 'Lemon', "Rubber Room," new resources, failure of schools and community to educate our youth.
- 2. Were some of your questions answered? 3 Yes. There was also a comment about complex issues and 4 people left the answer blank.
- 3. The next "At-risk Summit," we should discuss , because .

Some of the answers were: we should discuss incarceration, early childhood, cuts direction/path of students, new ways of funding and solutions to the problem. The last part of the question "because it pertains to education. Which I thought was a very good answer.

2. What will you take away from "Waiting for Superman" and the panel discussion?

Answers were: Need more funding for teachers' reform and anxiety about education and resources to address issues. There were 2 blank. Overall there are some complex issues within the DOE and educational reform.

- 3. What are some suggestions you think will be beneficial to the church and the community? Invite more teachers; create a support program, parental help for student, invite more teachers to take a part in the discussion. More outreach programs. Overall the group would like to see more support or outreach program for our students.
- 4. How would you rate overall experience at the "Summit?"

Answers: 3 Excellent, 2 Good, and 1 left blank. Overall, it was rated "Good to

Excellent." It very successful. 20 sheets passed out and 6 returned. Some of the forms were taken home and never returned. But what we got back gave us an indication that the "1st Educational 'Awareness" Summit' was very successful and should be continued every year. This was the Evaluation of Goal 1 for the project.

EVALUATION OF GOAL 2:

In February 1, 2013, Doctor of Ministry Proposal for this demonstration project, it was stated that I would "Design a team for Mentoring at-risk: A College Prep Ministry and recruit/select 25 students and 10 adults from church, the Hamilton Height Community and local high school to participate in the "Mentoring at-risk: A College Prep Ministry" at CABC."

I was able to recruit 10 adults from my church to participate in the program. 14 Students participated in the "Mentoring at-risk youth Program." 4 students came from the A. Philip Randolph Campus High School. They came from the Bronx, New Jersey, Upstate New York, Far Rockaway, Queens, Brooklyn and all across the Tri-State Area of New York. It was accomplished.

Strategy 1: In the proposal I stated that I would determine the criteria for the selection of at-risk High School Student's for the program. Based upon an agreement between Kaplan K-12 Learning Company and Minister Evelyn J. Perkins, students

• Must have a GPA of 75-80.

Must attend 100% of the classes to be effective.

Must sign Confidential Agreement to use pictures, video, SAT scores, etc.

• Their Family income should be below poverty level.

Be respectful at all times.

These were some of the results of Strategy 1 of the proposal for the "Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Prep Ministry. It was accomplished.

Strategy 2: The proposal stated that I would "recruit 25 students and 10 adults were done. As stated above.

Strategy 3: The proposal stated that I would hold a "Mentoring Workshop" to educate prospective 'mentors.'

It was done on a Wednesday Night, one hour before the CABC's Bible Study.

They were given a copy the "At-risk Manual" and discussed ways to mentor at-risk youth. They were asked to call the students once a month to check on them.

EVALUATION OF GOAL 2: "Feedback from High School students through discussion and pre/post questionnaire.

Students were able to discuss their careers and plans for the future after the SAT instructional time.

• After every event, students fill out 'pre' and 'post' questionnaire which is listed in Appendix J.

GOAL 3: To "Create the 'Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Pre Ministry' and Guidelines to facilitate the program.

An 'At-risk youth Manual' was created. In the manual was guideline on how to counsel, listen and keep confidential information secret, unless there is a situation that puts these youth in danger than it can be released. The at-risk youth Manual for the program was created. It was done. See Appendix D for a copy of the "At-risk youth Manual." Strategy 1: "Set up a Manual for at-risk youth" was done and implemented.

Strategy 2: "Set up time limits for group and individual counseling."

Group and individual counseling was done after the instructional time on Saturdays. 1st we would set down as a group and if anyone had a problem, they could stay afterward to see me. These students lived so far away that they could not come during the week. Exceptions were made to accommodate these students. Yet, I was available during the week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, in case students from A. Philip Randolph Campus High School had a problem or needed someone to talk to.

Strategy 3: "Set aside rooms for the discussions/workshops, conferences and fair."

During the implementation of the Mentoring at-risk youth Program, I had the opportunity to work with the church clerk (Brother Lloyd Harrison) for space and arranging rooms and scheduling of events.

- EVALUATION OF GOAL 3: "Set up guideline for "Mentoring at-risk youth by March, 2013.

 An at-risk youth Manual containing 'guideline' was developed by March 1, 2013.

 However, more guidelines were added as the ministry progressed to fit the needs of the student population.
- GOAL 4: "Implement the "Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Prep Ministry." It was done stage by stage. It was accomplished.
- Strategy 1: "Group Discussions on Building Self-Esteem and relevant topics (cyber-bully, internet (Face book) and "Safe Space" during the week. Since some students live far away or were involved in extracurricular activities or doing their intern, they could not attend during the week. However, we were able to discuss some of the issues after class. And on Sundays, the church had activities for the 'Chosen youth' which included most of Convent's high school students. More importantly, we were able to accomplish our goal by mentoring these young people for about thirty minutes on Saturdays. I would occasionally call them to check on them if I did not get a chance to speak to them.

 Strategy 2: 'Start Kaplan SAT prep class on Saturday for 10 weeks to prepare high school students for the College Admissions Process.' The Kaplan SAT Prep Course started on February 2, 2013 to April 27, 2013 from 9am to 1:30pm. It was held at 425 West 144th Street in room 403. It started out in room 311, but it was too small for 14 people. We had to find another room to use. Room 403 was bigger, warmer and well lit. Students were more comfortable in this room. We stayed there until the project was finished.

Strategy 3 "Set up a spiritual Component for "Mentoring at-risk

Youth: A College Prep Ministry." During the ten week SAT Prep Course, 3

Sermons were preached to encourage the at-risk youth. The first sermon was preached at Dr. Scott's Church at 152nd Street for the youth during the Lenten Season. On April 23, 2013 was the first worship service for the at-risk youth.

Many of our students came out to hear and participate in the program. Pre and Post questionnaires were passed out. (See Appendix I for pre and post questionnaires answers). The third spiritual component was the "Closing/Dinner" for the students after the completion of the Saturday Kaplan SAT Prep Course. The third sermon was preached. Each service included praise and worship, scripture and prayer. This worship serves help to encourage and motivate students to succeed. It was designed to give them 'hope' that they can make it in life.

EVALUATION OF GOAL 4: The proposal stated that "Through internet data, feedback, personal stories, report cards, from high school student and parents' feedback will let us know if the "Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Prep Ministry' was successful.

Parents and students were able to give feedback on their 'Pre' and "Post' questionnaires of each event. During the Closing Dinner, every student got up from their seats and hare with the audience 'what the 'Mentoring Program meat to them. How it affected their lives. They talked about how they had to get up early on a Saturday morning and traveling an hour to get to the church for the class. How their grades went up. There were parents, who wanted to talk about 'what they learned from attending the class' as well. Then Councilman Robert Jackson talked to them about "the College Admissions Process' and how to prepare themselves. He talked about the 'cost' and how to maximize their college tuition. Even, Kaplan's Teacher, Mr. Ben Bar and Jane Berkowitz (Kaplan's Harlem Representative) had positive thing to say about the program. It was that night that I found out the 'success" of the Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Prep Ministry." It was stated by Kaplan K-12's Representative, Jane Berkowitz, that she had been working with Councilman Jackson to replicate this program in three location in Harlem and Washington Heights Area. I was blessed to have it on video tape. It was one of the highlights of the ministry when Jane Berkowitz shared this information with the congregation. As a result, my Senior Pastor Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. has asked me to continue the Saturday SAT prep class. Parents want to know when the next class will began. As a result, I have

incorporated a non-profit organization to continue the 'vision' God has given me. The "Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Prep Ministry was a successful. There is now a waiting list of more than 35 students for the mentoring program. This is the end of the evaluation of the Mentoring at-risk: A College Prep Ministry.

FINAL RESULTS OF THE KAPLAN SAT PREP COURSE.



SAT Score Report - First to Last Test Convent Avenue Baptist Church KTKM130301

Name	First Practice Test					Final Practice Test					Gains	
	М	CR	W	Tot	%	М	CR	W	Tot	%	vs1st Test	%
Child #1	400	320	500	1220	51%	530	440	480	1450	60%	230	9%
Child #2	450	490	350	1290	54%	510	500	450	1460	61%	170	7%
Child #3	380	310	330	1020	43%	400	280	320	1000	42%	-20	-1%
Child #4	240	290	340	870	36%	330	300	350	980	41%	110	5%
Child#5	420	370	430	1220	51%	390	360	390	1140	48%	-80	-3%
Child#6	320	290	210	820	34%	290	210	200	700	29%	-120	-5%
Child#7	520	440	300	1260	53%	600	570	490	1660	69%	400	16%
Child#8	450	420	290	1160	48%	1	,	-	1	1	1	N/A
Child#9	340	400	250	990	41%	440	430	410	1280	53%	290	12%
Child #10	290	200	200	690	29%	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Child#11	340	370	310	1020	43%	380	400	310	1090	45%	70	2%
Child #12	510	470	500	1480	62%	560	510	520	1590	66%	110	4%
Child #13	450	390	440	1280	53%	510	340	520	1370	57%	90	4%
Child#14	550	420	530	1500	63%	520	440	580	1540	64%	40	1%
Child #15	260	300	270	830	35%	330	240	200	770	32%	-60	-3%

Table 1 Kaplan Scores

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ Children names have been replaced by the word "Child 1-15" to protect their real names.

APPENDIX D "MENTORING AT-RISK YOUTH MANUAL"

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

"Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Prep Ministry" is a ministry designed to help our atrisk high school students prepare for the College Admission Process in a church and
Community. My goal is to prepare our high school at-risk high school students for the 21st
Century- with life skills that are valuable and transferable. Only then, will our young AfricanAmerican and Latino high school students be better prepare to compete on the same level as
those from China and abroad. "Dreams will come alive and goals achieved. To this end, we have
selected 25 students and 10 adults to participate in the program as "Role Models" and "Mentors"
for these A-Risk youth in the Hamilton Heights Area of Harlem. An at-risk youth are those high
school students who are at-risk of Academic Failure, Social-Economic deprived Foster Children,
and reentering society. Lives will be "Transformed" to the Glory of God. "

MENTORING at-risk youth" WEEK DAY SCHEDULE:

From 3; 30-6:30 P.M. Students arrive from school.

Snacks/sandwiches provide

Meet with their "Mentor" to discuss their day.

Homework and group discussions

Individual Discussion on Relevant Topics

Close-out with Prayer

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE:

Students arrive at 8:50 AM. Classes Start at 9AM

Classes end at 12:15 on Instructional Days and 1pm on SAT Test Prep Days.

Students will be given breaks during the test and instructional time.

After Instructional Time, students will be asked to stay 30 minutes for more "Mentoring.

"For 10 weeks students will be put through a rigorous SAT Prep Course to prepare them for the College Admissions Process.

Homework will be given online and in the classroom.

Students will be able to access their SAT Scores after each practice test to review with parents.

"MENTORING AT- RISK youth" Agenda

- Mentors will be personally selected by the director to work with at-risk youth in the Community.
- 2. Orientation of Mentors
- 3. Fill out applications and questionnaires to become 'Mentors."
- 4. Background Checks on each "Mentor" (2 3 Months).
- 5. An Evening Workshop on Mentoring Young at-risk youth
- a. Guidelines and Procedures for "Mentoring at-risk youth"
- 6. How to conduct Group and Individual Discussions with our at-risk youth
- 7. How to write-up "In-Take" and conduct interviews.
- 8. "Confidentiality" and the at-risk youth.

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR COUNSELING AT-RISK YOUTH "God's Love in Action"

Counseling is so important. Our children are faced with different situations in life. They need someone to talk to. In the Mentoring 'At-risk youth Program, we have selected ten adults to counsel our at-risk youth, who may come to us for help. So, God has called you to become "Mentors" to at-risk youth within our church and the Harlem Community. You have been personally selected to become 'mentors. As 'Mentors' you bring unique gifts, talents, personality and character to the ministry. Jesus is a perfect example of what we should do as 'mentors 'Called' by God for ministry. Before Jesus healed the Canaanite Woman, he let her give her testimony of Faith. (Matthews 15:21-28). When Jesus met the blind man (Mark 10:46-52, KJV) Jesus asked "What he wanted and carefully listened to what he had to say.' Jesus showed compassion and concern. Then, Jesus ministered to their needs. Jesus listened to the people before acting or responding to their needs. As we "Mentor" these at-risk youth, it is important to listen to what they have to say and keep their information confidential as well. All the information in this manual is derived from *The Stephen Ministry Training Manual* (Stephen Ministry, Stephen Ministry Training Manual, Volume 1- Modules 1-14 (St. Louis, MO: Stephens Ministry, 2000).

Here are some suggestions to use during your telephone conversation or physical appointment. Our young people are going through a lot, during the course of the day at school. They might need someone to talk to. You will be asked to all these students at home two or three times a month to see how they are doing and document the call. To facilitate a discussion, at-risk Mentors/Counselors will be able to use the following question to guide the discussion. "When you call them, you can say: "Good evening this is Sister Susan from the Convent Avenue

Baptist Church Mentoring at-risk youth Program. I'm calling to see if everything is alright. Here are some of the questions that you may use such as:

- ❖ How are you?
- ❖ How are you doing in school?
- ❖ How were you able to handle the situation?

What does your mother think? These may be some starter questions that you may use to facilitate the discussion. Keep the conversation short. "Being a patient listener also it means allowing silence during helping conversations.' Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:4, 7 tells us that love is patient. In "the Book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time for speaking and a time for keeping silent (Eccl.3.7b, KJV). Effective listening entails remaining patients and at ease in silent moments as others struggle to express a feeling in pause to consider a thought." In Job 2 shows us how his friends stayed with him seven days and night in silence to listen and support Job during his hour of sorrow. One thing to remember is that "When you patiently listen to their silent moments you will encourage care received to share their thoughts and feeling." Jesus was patient with people, we should follow His examples.

PHYSICAL SETTING FOR LISTENING:

- ❖ Distraction Free Environment- a place free of distractions.
- Finding a quiet place to talk.
- Sitting a distance from the individual.

What to listen for?

- ❖ Pay attention to Body Language
 - o -Piecing together, fragments of multiple conversations.
 - Shaking of hands
 - -Muscle tension (clenched fist)
 - -Posture (rigid or slouching behavior)

- ❖ Pay attention to "What they do not say!"
- ❖ Pay attention to voice and gestures (faint voice and break in the Conversations)
- ❖ Pay attention to choice of clothing as well.
 - Facial Expressions and What the Care Receiver's eyes tell you during the conversation (tearful?)
 - o Focused away from you while you are talking."

These expressions will give you more information about the care receiver, you are speaking to. Ask yourself one question, "Is this person's nonverbal behavior consistent with the verbal statements he or she is making?" "For example, an inappropriate laughs or a smile usually is a good indication of anxiety." Here is some more suggestion to apply during the conversation.

- ❖ Make eye contact with the student.
- ❖ Lean forward slightly. Face the speaker and nod your head often.
- Avoid looking out the window or being distracted. Do not look at your watch, doodling, finger tapping or other activity that shows that you are not listening to them.
- ❖ If you get interrupted, repeat where you were before the conversation was interrupted. Say: "Before we were interrupted, you said....."

Suggested Closed Ended Questions such as:

- 1. How did it make you feel?
- 2. How many siblings are in your family?
- 3. What are you going to do next?
- 4. What can we do for you?
- 5. Keep us posted on your progress.

Opened Ended Questions:

- 1. How are you?
- 2. How were you feeling when that happened?

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Confidentiality is preserving the sacred trust. When people share information with Doctors, lawyers, psychologist, or clergy, they expect them to keep the information confidential.

And not share the conversation with our spouse, close friends or family. That Sacred Trust is to be honored. God is counting on us to keep those conversations confidential. Confidentiality is an essential component of being trust worthy." "Trust" means that they will not tell what they say or do. It is so important to create a 'safe environment' for individuals to share what is bothering them. The Basic Rule of Confidentiality is: "All communication between caregivers and care receivers, all observation or impressions that caregivers gather about their care receivers and are records about care receiver must remain confidential, unless the receiver gives the caregiver his or her permission to share them." It is important to record observations and impressions, but we must ask permission to share that information. Now, there are 3 exceptions to the rule.

Request for Confidential Information: Three Exceptions to the rule.

- 1. Suicidal Behavior- If someone is in danger of harming themselves, it is okay to share and get help for the individual.
- 2. Homicidal Behavior- If a crime has been committed and you get a legal notice, then you have to release the information.
- 3. Instances of Abuse. If there is any indication of being abused, the information can be released at the appointed time.

In conclusion, Conditionality is so important in today's society. We can only break Confidentiality, unless it is absolutely necessary to preserve life or help someone who is in danger. Conditionality is a 'Sacred Trust' that we must keep. As Mentors of at-risk youth, it is so important that our young people 'trust' us. To be someone that they can come to for guidance, counseling and support. These are some of the guidelines and procedures that we must following, while mentoring our at-risk youth

END OF AT-RISK YOUTH MANUAL

APPENDIX E MINISTERIAL COMPETENCIES

Appendix E shows you the Ministerial Competences that I (Minister Evelyn J. Perkins) was asked to improve on and to preach three encouraging sermons to at-risk youths participating in the "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry Program. The first part of Appendix E will be the Ministerial Competences and Site Team Meetings that was held during the implementation of the demonstration project. The second part of Appendix E will be the actual "preached' sermons and a 'Pre' and 'Post Questionnaires that were answered by parents, students or visitors.

PART 1 MINISTERIAL COMPETENCIES

SUMMARY OF THE SITE TEAM MEETINGS

I. Candidate: Evelyn J. Perkins Date of Meeting, February 28, 2012

The Site Team Meeting was held in the Educational Building of CABC at 5:30-7pm.

Agenda

- 1. Every Meeting was open up with prayer and scripture.
- 2. Introduction of Site Team Members.
- 3. Responsibilities of a Site Team Member as listed in the NYTS Handbook.
- 4. Topic of discussion: Ministerial Competences and due date for completion for Minister Evelyn J. Perkins.

Every meeting was closed out with prayer. These were some of the topics discussed at the first Site Team Meeting of February 28, 2012. This is the report of the Site Team Meeting of February 28, 2012.

II. Second Site Team Meeting

Date of Meeting, March 19, 2012.

The second Site Team Meeting was held in the Educational Building of CABC at 6pm.

Agenda

- 1. Ministerial Competences (30m). Minister Perkins left the room, while the Site Team discussing Ministerial Competences she needs to improve or develop.
- 2. After 30minutes, Minister Perkins was asked to come in and the group discussed areas of improvement.
- 3. Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be in April 19, 2012.

These are the topics discussed at the second Site Team Meeting on March 19, 2013.

III. Third Site Team Meeting

Date of Meeting, April 19, 2013

The Third Site Team Meeting was held at the CABC in Conference Room after the 11 am service. The Site Team met while Minister Perkins was away on the "Going Home Trip" with Dr. Lundy, Dr. Peter Heltzel, Dr. Cynthia Diaz and NYTS students. Agenda

- 1. The 'Third Site Team Meeting was held after the 11am service. Their goal was to discuss and complete the Ministerial Competences for Minister Evelyn J. Perkins.
- 2. Due date for the Ministerial Competences was May, 18, 2012. To be submitted to Rev. Dr. Wanda Lundy, Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program

This is the Site Team Meeting report of April 19, 2012.

IV. The Fourth Site Team Meeting

Date of Meeting, May 8, 2012

The Fourth Site Team Meeting was held in room 103 of the Educational Building of the CABC at 5:30-7pm.

Agenda

- 1. Completion of the Ministerial Competence for Minister Evelyn J. Perkins.
- 2. The Site Team completed the Ministerial Competences and has some areas pf improvements and suggestions.

Signing-Off on the Ministerial Competences for submission. This is the report of the Site Team Meeting of May 8, 2012. The Site Team Meetings

will resume in the fall. Most Ministries go on vacation during the summer months.

During the summer, Minister Perkins will continue to work on her proposal draft and research for her demonstration project. She will also be attending Social Justice meeting as well. This is the Site Team report of May__-, 2012.

V. The Fifth Site Team Meeting Date of Meeting October 15, 2012 This Site Team Meeting was scheduled for the end of the month because of the 2nd year/week of the Doctor of Ministry (Micah). The Site Team was up dated on the goals of the Doctor of Ministry Program.

Agenda

- 1. Draft of Doctor of Ministry Proposal due November 29, 2012.
- 2. Final Draft due February 1, 2013. Redo the 'Challenge Statement/'
- 3. Worked on the 'Challenge Statement for the project.

Discussion on the 'Interview with Principal David Fanning of /A. Philip Randolph Campus High School located on the City College Campus' in the Hamilton Heights Area.

These are some of the topics of discussion at the Site Team Meeting of October, 15, and 2012. Since it was the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season, meeting was discussed via emails. The next Site Team Meeting will be in January, 2013. In the meantime, Minister Perkins would continue to work on her proposal and research, which is due February 1, 2013.

On December 19, 2012, after the interview with Principal Fanning of the A. Philip Randolph Campus High School, I arrange an appointment to speak with Dr. Lundy. During the meeting, I shared some facts I had gathered from the meeting with Principal Fanning concerning the need of his high school students. As a result, it was agreed that the title of the project should be changed to "Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Prep Ministry." I asked if I could use Kaplan SAT Prep for one of the components of the program to prepare at-risk high school students for the college admissions process. The answer was yes. It had to start the beginning of February in order to work. It would last 10 weeks of SAT Prep. My Site Team was advised of the change via email. This is the Site Team Meeting report of October 15, 2012.

VI. The Sixth Site Team Meeting

Date of Meeting Jan. 2013.

This meeting was done via email. Site Team Members was emailed. On January 1, 2013, I lost my brother Theolphus Perkins in Alabama. I had to go home for the funeral. I returned on January 9, 2013. I continued register students for the Kaplan SAT Prep Course at CABC, which would start the beginning of February, 2013. Registration lasted 3 weeks (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). Orientation was on 1/24/13. All though the process, the Site Team was notified via email and in person. It was a difficult time for me. Even though I was grieving, I had to finish my project. They supported me all the way. They were there to lend a hand. Site Team Meeting for January was canceled, but email was sent out updating the team on the progress. Some of them can to help out with the registration of students for the Saturday Kaplan SAT Prep Course, held at CABC from 9am to 1:30. This is the Site Team Meeting report for January, 2013.

VII. Site Team Meeting

Date of Meeting February 21,, 2013.

The Site Team Meeting was held in the Educational Building of CABC at 5:30-7pm.

Agenda

- 1. Saturday Kaplan SAT Prep Class
 - a. Progress of students

- b. Attendance/Food
- c. Mentoring of students
- 2. 1st Educational 'Awareness' Summit for March 1, 2012
 - a. Echo (announcement), flyers, letters and food for event.
 - b. Film "Waiting for Superman." Panel discussion on Charter Schools vs. Public Schools
 - c. Videos, pictures, etc.

These were some of the topics of discussion, during the February, 2012 Site Team Meeting. Other discussions were done via email.

VIII. Site Team Meeting

Date of Meeting, March 7, 2013.

The Site Team Meeting was held in the Educational Building of CABC at 5:30pm

The Meeting was held at the end of the month after the '1st Educational 'Awareness' Summit.'

Agenda

- 1. The success of the "1st Educational 'Awareness' Summit.
- 2. What worked and what did not work.
- 3. At-risk Praise and Worship Services, April 23, 2013 at 6:30pm.
 - a. Program, space, echo, Pre and Post Questionnaires for event.
 - b. Letters to parents. All students must attend the at-risk Praise and Worship Services on 4/23/13.
 - c. Video, pictures, etc.
- 4. April 27, 2013 Last Day of the Saturday Kaplan–Taught SAT Class
 - a. Fill out surveys (Pre and Post Questionnaire).
 - b. Success of the Kaplan SAT Prep Class.
 - c. Success of the 'Mentoring' sessions

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From February to April 15, some of our Site Team members are CPA. Some were not able to attend. So contacting them via email was a better for them. These were some of the topics discussed during the Site Team Meeting of March7, 2013. IX. Site Team Meeting

Date of Meeting for April 16, 2013.

No Meeting schedule for April. Because of Easter and Jewish Holidays. Communications will be done via emails. We were preparing for May 24th Closing Dinner for the students.

Communications was sent out to students and their families. The Site Team gave their okay for the Closing/Dinner. Preparations for the event (programs, letters, banners and food) were made. NYC Councilman Robert Jackson was invited to attend. Certificates were given out to students. This is a busy season. Some of my Site Team Members are CPA and it was a busy season for them. Most of the contact from February to April 15 was done either in person after 11 am service or via email.

X. Site Team Meeting Date of Meeting for May, 2013. No Meeting scheduled for May, because of the Closing Dinner Preparations. All communications was done via email. Suggestions for the event were made via email or verbally after the 11 am services. The Saturday, Kaplan SAT Prep Class was finished. Now we wanted to acknowledge their sacrifice by having a Closing/Dinner to meet the parents and families of these students. Some of the members of the Site Team participated in preparing the food for the students and their families. No further Site Team Meetings are scheduled for the summer. Most ministries are on vacation until the fall. No meetings are normally schedule during the summer, because of vacations. Minister Perkins will use this time to continue to analyze and collect data for her theses. They return in the fall. This is the report of the Site Team Meeting of May, 2013.

XI. Site Team Meeting

Date of Meeting, October, 2013

Communications with the Site Team was done via email and verbally in person after the 11 am Services. The last part of the "Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Prep Ministry" component is the College Fair, which was given on October 19, 2013 from 9-

3pm. Historical Black College came to CABC. I partner with the African–American Experience to recruit high school students from the neighborhood to come to the College Fair. I pass out flyers and extended an invitation to the "Scholarship Lady' to come and speak to the students about scholarships and grants. We did not have a meeting because I was working with the African-American Experience to set up the College Fair. They were advised of the events and what was happening at the time. They gave the okay and encouraged me to continue. One of my Site Team Members attended the College Fair on Saturday, October 19, 2013. I was invited to participate in the Riverbay/Co-op City's College Fair as well. My Demonstration project on "Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Prep Ministry" is winding down. This was the last component of the Demonstration

No meeting schedule for November or December. During the holiday, I communicated with my site team via email or in person after the 11 am services. One of my site team members is disabled. She rides in a 'motorize chair' and takes "Access-A-Ride. She is unable to come out at night, so I try to talk to her after the 11 am services. Another Site Team member is elderly and she cannot come out at night. She works with the youth and children, so I try to talk to her after the 11 am services as well. I have to keep in contact with all of my site team members. Whatever I need them to do they are willing to help in the success of my demonstration project. They are aware after the November 16,th, Doctor of Ministry's workshop, that it is a crucial time to get the research and project done for submission in February. This is the report of the Site Team for Nov-January, 2014. This is the end of Evelyn J. Perkins' Site Team Meetings and reports thru Jan.2014.

PART 2

THREE ENCOURAGING SERMONS

In my proposal I stated that I would preach three encouraging sermons to the atrisk youth, during the implementation of my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project entitled: Mentoring at-risk youth: A College Prep Ministry. Below are the actual sermons that were preached.

SERMON #1

Sermon #1 For at-risk youth was given at St. John's Baptist Church on 152 Street in Harlem, during the Lenten Seasons (February, 2013 at 7pm). Rev. Dr. John Scott is the Senior Pastor. "Giving honor to God." To Dr. Scott, the pastor of this great church. To the Board of Deacon, Trustee, Officers, Members and Friends. I want to thank You, Dr. Scott, for giving me an opportunity to preach the 'Word of God,' tonight."

Now, if you have your Bibles hold them up and show the world that you came armed and prepared to get into the "Word" and let the "Word" of God get into your hearts.

Theme: "Getting Closer to God, this Lenten Season."

My Text is taken from the Gospel According to Matthews 4: 1-4).

1. "Then was Jesus led up of the spirit unto the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3. And when the tempter came to him, he said, if thou be the Son of God, command that these stone be made bread. 4. But he answered and said, it is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. This is the "Word of God" for the people of God.

PRAYER...... Lord we come to that preaching moment. Lord let your servant decrease while your Holy Spirit Increase. Lord you are welcome in this place. Now, Lord "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable unto thee..." This we ask in the precious name of Jesus, Amen.

THEME: "Getting closer to God, this Lenten Season."

This is the Season of Lent. It is a time of prayer and sacrifice to help us prepare to celebrate Holy Week. It is a period of 40 weekdays in the Christian Church devoted to fasting, abstinence and penitence. We see that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. The Lenten Season reflects on the 40 days that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the Wilderness; where he fasted, prayed and was tempted by the Devil (Luke 4:1). the last week of Lent is called Holy Week. We see that, during the Lenten Season, we have an opportunity to pray, fast, to give charitably, and get closer to God. It is a time to reflect on, where we are in the Lord and what we need to do to get closer to Him. It is a time to "REDICATE" our lives to God. A time to "CONSECRATE" our lives to God. And it is a time for "CLENSING." At time to avoid temptation of the devil just like Jesus did during those 40 days in the wilderness.

My Brothers and sisters as we take a closer look at the Lenten Season. We hear people talking about "GIVING UP SOMETHING." Like: Smoking, Drinking, overeating, certain types of foods, cursing, foul language, etc. Now in the Catholic Faith, From Ash Wednesday to Easter, Many solemnly Mark their Foreheads with ash. "Fasting or obtaining from physical pleasures for 40 days. This is done supposedly imitates Jesus Christ's "Fasting" in the Wilderness (Matt.4:1-2).

We see that people make promises or vows give up anything, as long as it prepares them for Easter or Resurrection Sunday. NOW, THERE ARE THREE POINTS,

I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION, THIS EVENING! When Dr.

Scott asked me to speak, he thought it would be a good idea to speak on: Rededication,

Consecration, and Cleansing. First, I want to talk to you about "REDICATING YOUR

LIVES TO GOD."

The act of "Dedicating" our lives to God by Praying and Fasting.

Confessing our sins, and admitting that we are not where we should be. You can say: "Lord, I want to get closer to you." Let God know that you want to live a more "HOLY" life. So, we "Dedicate" our live to God, during this Lenten Season. If, we are willing to run the race, there should not be anything" HOLDING YOU' back. Is there something we need to "GIVE UP"? Is there something, we need to do internally to prepare ourselves for the journey? Even, Jesus in Matthew and in Luke prepared himself for His Public Ministry. Immediately after Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, Scripture tells us that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. He was tempted in Matt. 4:1-4. Here we see that Jesus was tempted as a man. He was tempted in all ways - Body, "Command these stone to be made bread" - Soul. "Cast thyself down."-Spirit. "Fall down and worship me" (KJV). These were some of the techniques Satan will use to destroy you physically, mentally and spiritually. So, when we are tempted, we should not be surprised because Satan will use anything to distract us and keep us "OFF POINT." But look what Jesus did, He quoted Scriptures to Satin and he would flee, so when you are tempted we have to remember what Jesus did. We have to remember that your weapon against the devil is the "Word of God." We fight against flesh and blood, but spirits in high places. God will allow us to be tested. Gen 22:1, God tested Abraham ...Duet 13:3 and Ps. 81:7. We have to do the same when we are faced with situations beyond our control. That is why, it is so important to be "Prayed Up." You see, Jesus

knew that one day he would be going to the Cross to sacrifice His life for mankind and restore man to his rightful fellowship with God. Jesus stood in the "GAP" for you and me. You see there was a time that Jesus had to "Still Away." To meditate, pray and fast. So, that He would have the strength to go on and do what God had "Call" Him to do. We have to make the time to study the word, pray and seek God's face.

"Get right with God," by dedicating our lives to God, Then, he can use us. He cannot use us, if there is something hindering us. My brothers and Sisters, we have work to do!

The second Point: This Lenten Season, God want us "CONSECRATE

OUR LIVES" for service. He wants us to set ourselves apart, so that He can use us. That means refraining from doing things that are against the "Will" of God. "CONSECRATE MEANS": to make Holy or to dedicate to "Higher" purpose. One example would be when consecrate a building to be used as a church, so it can be used for "God's Work" here on earth. The word "Consecrate" comes from the Latin word "sacer" or "Sacred." REMEMBER: Anything consecrated is dedicated to "God and is Sacred."

Our bodies are the temple of God. In Paul's Letter to the Romans 12:1-2 states: 1. "I Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect, will of God." (KJV) My Brothers and Sisters, the Lenten Season is a time to consecrate our lives by separating from worldly things to "Holiness." It's a time to talk God. And get back to where God want us to be. "To imitate Jesus' life, so we can be a blessing to others. God wants to

"CLEAR-OUT" to make room for what He's going to do in your life. Just like spring cleaning, we have to remove some of that "OLD CLUTTER that has been accumulating in our lives. He's going to do a "NEW THING" in your lives. Now is the time to prepare for your blessing by being faithful and trusting in Him. God is getting ready to bless you. But He wants to know if, He can trust you. So, now is the time to "Step-Out on Faith." Believing that God knows what's best in our lives. "God want to use us. But there are things we have to do to prepare for the "Change" in our lives. CLEANSING HAS TO TAKE PLACE. The Bible says that we are purified- cleansed, set apart and made pure in God's sight by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. (Heb. 9:11-14, 22, 13:12). In Verse 22, tells us that "...all things are by law purged with blood and without shedding of blood is no remission of sin. This along with "FAITH" (Act 15: 9) and humbly submitting to and obeying God. In James 4:7-10 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (KJV) Verse 8 tells us to" Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify you hearts..."

In John 17:17 tell us to "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." In Paul's First Letter to Timothy (1 Tim 4:5) tells us that "For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer that makes us cleans before God." "CLEANSING" is so important this Lenten Season. When we began to fast and pray, God can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Confessing all those unconfessed sins in our lives. Praying and asking God to forgive us. So He can wipe the slate clean. And we can start over. All we have to do is ask for forgiveness and God will cleanse remove those things from our lives. If we

can give up these things for 40 days, then, we know that "all things are possible through our Lord and Savior Jesus, Christ."

During my life there are thing that I had to get rid of. I could see the area that God wanted me to change. Things I had to be removed in order for God to use me. I want to get "Closer to God" and to be used by Him. "WE ARE ALL UNDERCONSTRUCTION." God is not finished with us yet.

If you are willing, God can use you. He can remove the "JUNK" out of your lives.

Then, we can be filled with "holiness' through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

My Brother and Sisters, God wants to use us. We have to be "PRAYEDUP for the journey. We don't know what we will run into. This Lenten Season, you have an opportunity to pray, fast and give back to God for what He has blessed us with. Beloved, you have to be prepared to resist the Temptation of the devil. Just like our lord Jesus did. God always a plan for Salvation of man, when we mess up. Even in the Old Testament, through the prophets, God had a plan for man. Jesus fulfilled that plan by giving his life on the Cross for our Sins. He could have called 10.000 angels, but he decided to stay there. If he had not died, then I would have been in vain. (John 17:1. "God Loves Us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to take away the sins of the world. Now, Jesus could have come down from the "Cross" but he stayed. Jesus died on that Cross. He was laid in a borrowed tomb. He stayed there all Friday night, all day Saturday, and Early on 'Easter Sunday Morning, He arose with all powers in His Hands. This Lenten Season, use this time to "GET CLOSER TO GOD' and be of service to Him. "May God Bless and Keep you."

THE END OF SERMON#1

SERMON #2

Sermon #2 was preached at Convent Avenue Baptist Church during a "Praise and Worship Service" for at-risk youth on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 6:30pm in the lower Sanctuary of the church. This is the actual sermon that was preached.

Giving honor to God, to Pastor Jesse T. Williams, Jr, Pulpit Associates, the Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustee, Officer, Members, Friends and my Convent Family. First, I thank the Rev. Dr. Williams for giving me the opportunity to do my Doctor of Ministry Project here at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church. It is indeed an honor and privilege to be in the House of the Lord one more time. Theme: "Who will Stand Up for You?"

Our Biblical Text is taken from: 1 Samuel 17: 4-10, 45, 46 & 47(KJV).

1 Samuel 17 verse 4 "And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Phil'-is-tines, named Go-li'ath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. Verse 5 And he head an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand she'-kels of brass. Verse 6 And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. Verse 7 And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred she'-kels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him. Verse 8

And he stood and cried unto the armies of Is'-ra-el, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Phil'-is-tine, and ye servants to Saul? Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. Verse 9 if he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servant: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. Verse 10 And the Phil'-is-tine said, I

defy the armies of Is'-ra-el this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. Verse 45 Then said Da'-vid to the Phil'-is-tine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Is'-ra-el, whom thou hast defied. Verse 46 This day wills the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Phil'-is-tines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel (Verse 47). And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands. (KJV)"

PRAYER: Lord, we come this evening to thank you for your many blessings. Lord, as we come to this preaching moment, we ask that your servant decrease, while your Holy Spirit increases. Lord we pray that these high school students and church family will be Empower to carry on the mission; you have Called" them too. This we asked in the Precious Name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

My subject for today is: "WHO WILL STAND UP FOR YOU?"

Today, we welcome you to the Convent Avenue Baptist Church here in Harlem. "We are Change People Changing the world and the community for Jesus Christ. I am thankful to you for allowing your son/daughter to take a part in my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project, preparing our at-risk youth for the College Admission Process. In doing so, I arrange for Kaplan one of the greatest SAT Prep Agencies to help me in that quest. It has been a long Journey, since, February 2 to now. When I began to sit down and think about which at-risk youth Biblical Story in the Bible would be appropriate to preach on, God gave me "David and Goliath." One day when I was resting on the couch, I saw a commercial about David and Goliath. At the end of the commercial, they asked a

question. "WHO WILL STAND UP FOR YOU?" Jacoby & Meyers. Now I am not advertising for Jacoby and Meyers, but Jesus. Even George Duffield and Webb once wrote a song entitled "Stand up for Jesus".... Until every foe is vanquished. "My Brothers and Sisters there is something powerful about those words." So today, my subject is "WHO WILL STAND UP FOR YOU?" Now my question to you is that: Have you ever stood up for someone or have someone ever stood up for you? You had to overcome impossible situation in order to make it though. Now I know that there is time in our lives, when you had to stand alone in your convictions. May be it was a bully or maybe it was injustices on the basketball court or in the playground or in the classroom that someone stood up for you and encourage you to go on. Or it may have been a principle that you had to stand up for. Or you might have to stand alone. God knows your heart and will protect you along the way. He will make a way out of no way. Church, "Who will stand up for you?

Now our Biblical Story takes place in the Ancient Middle East. The author is the Holy Spirit and part was written by Samuel, himself. We see that the Book of Samuel marks off a definite Period—from the birth of Samuel to the last of the Judges to the Death of Saul, the first of the Kings and covers a period of 115 years. Tonight we are going to talk for a few minutes on how David overcame adversities against the giant Goliath. Now there are two main characters, David and Goliath. One person is a giant while the other one is a shepherd boy. David was a kid. He probably was the same as you are today. We see the Israelites were faced with a dilemma. How in the world they were going to defeat the tall giant called Goliath? In our day, He might be huge. We see a classic parable of superior odds being overcome by faith, daring, and skills. A lot of us

have heard this story several times. Now, some might ask? Why were people so afraid of Goliath? Who was He? The Philistine had produced fearsome champion named Goliath from the city of Gath. Some Scholars believed that he was about 9'9" toll. In any case he was huge. He wore a brass helmet and armor equipped with a massive spear and sword, preceded by a shield bearer. Every day he would parade up and down between the lines scornfully challenging the Israelites to come out and fight him in a single combat. If they lost, they would have to be his servant. (1 Sam. 17:8 & 9, KJV). Goliath used fear and intimidation against them. We see that Saul was in humiliating position for he was no match for this giant in size and strength. They were afraid of him. Now, we see that David is sent by his father, Jesse to take some provisions to his brothers and caption on the front lines. We see at this time, according to scholars, he was about 14 or 15 years old. David was about 5'5" tall in statue. He had been a Shepard boy, who cared for his fathers' sheep. He would protect them from bears and lion that would come to eat them. At time, David would come to the palace to play his harp for Saul. So he knew him quite well. He asked Saul and the captain to let him try. He was given that opportunity. When Goliath saw him he was dumbfounded. He saw David coming out to fight him with a few pebbles that he had gathered from the brook. He thought it was a joke. David perused him. When launched at David, he ran around another way, until he was able to get a good aim at Goliath. He took his sling shot and lunched the rock at Goliath and hit him on the forehead. Goliath fell to the ground. Then, David got on top of him and took his sword and cut off his head while he was out, then later presented it to Saul. I'm sure he must have been relieved. That someone had taken Goliath out.

If you go back to chapter 16, we see that David is anointed as Saul's successor by Samuel. He was chosen by God, through Samuel, to be succeeds Saul as King in 16: 1-11. He is anointed King 16:12-13 (KJV), but he is not enthroned until the death of Saul. Even thought he was to become king, David took his place as a servant, which should remind us of Jesus, out Lord and Savior, who humble himself as a servant, even unto his death on the cross. He wanted to do God's will. We see that Jesus was faithful to God, while he was here on Earth. Now, in the current text, David stepped up and answered the call. You see, It was important for David to defeat Goliath because he had make fun of his God and said bad things about him. Goliath was 'Dissing' David's God." He was "Fronting" on the front lines. David and his countryman wanted to stand up for God, somehow. He had to stop Goliath and the Philistine from belittling God. As a result, the Israelite chases the Philistine Army away. When news got around what David was done. The Philistine was afraid of David's God, and how he gave him the power and wisdom to defeat the strong and powerful giant that had been terrorizing the Israelites Army. Now there are many people listed in the Bible who stood up for God and overcame adversity like David.

Even during the time of Moses, God instructed Moses to send out one scout from each of the tribes of Israel to scout the land of Canaan, which he was giving to them. The land was rich, "flowing with milk and honey" only one problem; the land was possessed by Giants. Moses wanted to know if they could inhabit the land. Only Joshua and Caleb brought back good reports. They believe that they could possess the land He stood up, even though it was on two of them, saying that they could possess it. In these stories, God stood up for them and was able to bring them out. What does that say to us, when

we are faced with adversities of in life? We have more than a slingshot; we have Jesus, through the working of the Holy Spirit, to guide us every step of the way. David was skilled in playing the harp and using the sling shot. Back them they did not have army guns we have today. The army would use skill individual with sling shot on the front lines. David used what was in his hand. He knew that God would protect him. You see, David had Faith in God. Before David went into battle; David knew that God would protect him. His faith was strong. He used what was in his hand, a sling shot. THE QUESTION IS: "WHO WILL STAND UP FOR YOU? There are 3 points that I would like to bring to your attention.

POINT 1: God wants you to know that he will stand up for you.

You might come up against some 'GIANT' in your life. It might be that SAT Test; it might be a try-out for a position on the team, it might be a bully on the internet or a drug dealer that won't leave you along. He wants you to know that he has your back. That is why it is so important to study the "Word of God." So you will be able to stand. There are stories in the Bible, where we can learn from them and prepare us for what to come.

POINT 2: "WHO CAN STAND UP FOR YOU.? "JESUS!"

God want to prepare us for His 'ARMY.' With the Word and by listening to the Holy Spirit. We see how God was preparing David not only to be the King of Israel, for what was to come. We are going to be faced with all type of situations of life. There will not be a road map on how to proceed or take care of business. That is why we have to listen to God every step of the way and be obedient to his 'Word." David had no idea that he would be coming up against a "GIANT." When he was in the fields, he would practice that sling shot, until he had a prefect launch. And that made all the difference. He

would blow his horn and it would sooth Saul. You will never know what God has in store for you. We have to go on "faith." And he will see us though.

POINT 3: "WHO WILL STAND UP FOR YOU?

His name is Jesus. The man who suffered, bleed and died for your sins. The man Who God sent to take away the sins of the world. "Jesus."

WHO WILL STAND UP FOR YOU AND ME? JESUS

WHO WILL FIGHT YOUR BATTLE? JESUS.

Now I know there are times you have to stand alone. But the battle is not yours, it's God. WHO WILL STAND UP FOR PASTOR WILLIAMS? "JESUS"WHO WILL STAND UP FOR THE DEACONS? "JESUS" WHO WILL STAND UP FOR THE TRUSTEE? "JESUS" WHO WILL STAND UP FOR CHURCH FAMILY? "JESUS!" WHO WILL STAND UP FOR the Kaplan- SAT Prep Class? Who will stand up for Boston, Conn. Or Waco Texas as they rebuild their lives and homes? "Jesus!" Who will stand up for OUR COMMNITY, NATION & THE WORLD? JESUS. We are in a Spiritual Battle. We have to take a stand for what is right. We don't want Jesus to ask us "Why didn't we take a stand? Sometimes we take a stand when it is fashionable. When you have people standing with you, but it takes "COURAGE" when you have to stand alone. You don't be afraid, Jesus is stand beside you. He is going to prepare you for the army. Just like in Uncle Sam's Army, you have to go through basic training to get to the next level. Not like a video game, this is real life and situations. There will be time in life when God will give you an assignment to do. You might not have all the resources, but God wants you to know today that "He will be there for you." It is a spiritual war. God's got you back." "YOU ARE IN GOD'S ARMY NOW!"

Are we ready for service in God's Army? It might seem difficult to overcome, but we must stand up for "Jesus" It was not easy for me. There were times I had to stand alone, but God took me though. It might have been at work, school or even at the church. God took me though. I can say that my faith has been strengthened. It took me many years to get this far. It took me a number of years of working, disability, college and surgeries before God thought I was ready for the journey. My brothers and Sisters don't be discouraged when you come up against obstacles or challenges of life. Even when we come up against bullies; remember God is going to show you how to deal with that bully. He might tell you to walk away. Then there will be a time, when you will have to stand up for what is right. We had to stand and put on the whole armor of God so that you will be able to stand. We are talking about a Spiritual armor of God. "YOU ARE IN GOD'S ARMY NOW." Put on the whole armor of God. If you were a Roman, they would armor on from head to toe. 1.) We have to put on the whole armor of God....in Ephesians 6: 11-17 (KJV) tells us:

- * Girdle of truth v14.
- * Breastplate of righteousness v14.
- * Sandal of the Gospel v15.
- * Shield of faith v16.
- * Helmet of Salvation vs. 17
- * Sword of the spirit, which is the "Word of God" vs 17

It's not going to be easy, but God will give you the 'Grace' to stand.' Now if you are faced with a gun, know when to run. Only God is able to prepare you for what to come. God is going to prepare you, if you listen to that "small sweet voice" (Holy Spirit) inside of us. God wants to use all of us for service in his kingdom. We are to pray and watch and speak boldly. Vs 18-19. You are going to meet people who may intimidate you,

to stop you from the blessing God has in store for you. I want you to hold on to God's unchanging hands. Trust in God and He will direct your path. Don't worry about peer pressure, bullies, or being in the crowd, you are going to run across people, who will be jealous, envious and trying to put road blocks in your way. Remember that God wants to do something in your life in order to bring you a little higher. Now it's not going to be easy. It was not easy for me. It was not easy for my parents, Pastor Williams or his wife Gelaine or for none of us. It was not easy for Nelson Mandela, Obama, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ben Carson in Gifted Hands, or our parent, but they made it through holding on to God's unchanging hands. In Hebrews, 11th Chapter, Hall of Fame, give a list of all of those warriors that took a stand for God. He's asking you to do the same. When Jesus went to the cross for us, he took a stand and it made all the difference. Because, if, he hadn't the message would not have the significant as it does today because of his sacrifice on the cross for all of our sins. Then he arose again for the dead the third day. Now he is seated at the right hand of God making intercession for us today. When God looks down, he sees the shed blood of Jesus, which covers us. My brothers and sisters, God want you to "run the race with patience, perseverance and diligence."

WHO WILL STAND UP FOR YOU? JESUS. I don't know about you, but I want to see the man who took a stand for me by dying on the cross. I don't know about you, but I want to see him one day. Jesus, the man who died for me, on the 'Cross at Calvary." We will see all of those who have gone on before us. Heaven a place where there will be no sorrow or pain. Every day in heaven, will be Sunday. Every day will be sweeter than the day before. No more Cancer, heart aches or pain. Jesus will be there to

welcome us into heaven, with his arms stretch out saying come unto me, it's going to be alright. He's telling you today, come unto me and I will give you rest.

CHURCH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU...BUT I'M ON THE BATTLEFIELD FOR MY LORD. AND WE HAVE TO STAND UP FOR JESUS. "MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU."

END OF SERMON #2

SERMON #3

Sermon #3 was preached on May 24, 2013 at 6:00pm at the Closing/Dinner for the Students of the Kaplan SAT Prep Class at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church. Theme: "JESUS HAS A WORD OF HOPE FOR YOU, TONIGHT."

TEXT: 2 Corinthians. 4: 4-10. (KJV).

2 Corinthians 4: Verse 4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. Verse 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Je'-sus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Je'-sus' sake.

Verse 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Je'-sus Christ. Verse 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. Verse 8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Verse 9, Persecuted; but not forsake; cast down, but not destroyed; Verse 10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jes'-sus, that the life also of Je'-sus might be made manifest in our body."

PRAYER: Lord, we thank you for all your blessing. Lord, we thank you for all the students and their families, tonight. We asked that you continue to bless and keep us in your unchanging hands. Now, oh Lord, as we begin this Closing/Dinner Worship Service, Oh, God, we ask that you tabernacle with us tonight and every night, this we ask in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

INTRODUCTION: In the last few weeks, some of us have faced many difficult situations. Whether it was a loss of a love one, a Tornado that has destroyed an elementary school and destroyed many homes and some don't know what they are going to do. Or maybe it's a family problem that we are faced with today. Maybe it's a final exam or wondering if we are

going to get into that College or have enough money to go. Well, Jesus has a "Word of Hope and Encouragement' for you tonight. We are faced with many situations in life, but there is a word of hope tonight. My brothers and sisters there is a "Prophetic Word of Hope" for you tonight to calm your fears and know that God is in the mist of everything. Church my subject today is: "Jesus has a "Word of Hope" for you tonight."

Background Information:

We are living in a time of trouble. We as a people need something to hold on to every day of our lives, in order to make it through the day. Well, Jesus is that blessed Hope. Now Webster' Colleague Dictionary defines hope as "to wish for something very much. 'A wish for something, especially with the belief that the wish will be granted. "We all know that there will be trials and tribulation, but it will not even compare to what will happen during the Tribulation Period at the final judgment in eternity. Some of our personal problems may be financial, jobs, health bereavement. Sorrow, distress, disappointment, hopelessness, depression, persecution from all ends. Yet there is a 'Word of Hope and Encouragement from Jesus, tonight. Jesus will keep you in perfect peace. The Bible tells us in the Gospel of John, there about the 14th chapter 27th verse. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. "Let not your heart be trouble, neither be afraid." (KJV). Sometimes we go through situations which seem like there is "No way out." But Jesus has a "word of hope' for you today.

"DON'T FRET!"

"DON'T FROWN!" "DON'T PULL YOUR HAIR OUT OR GET FLUSTRATED!"
"DON'T GIVE IN!"
"DON'T OUIT!" "

"DON'T RUN AWAY, OR GIVE UP, BECAUSE JESUS HAS A WORD OF HOPE FOR YOU TODAY!"

He is standing at the Throne of Grace making intercession for you right now. He is talking to God. We can always go to GOD with our problems. We need to tell Jesus what is bothering you. Tell God that you are hurting. Tell him that you have lost you job and you need a new one. Tell Jesus about the biopsy. Tell him what you are going through. You know, he

promises to listen and answer all of your prayers. He is saying my Sister is homeless and she needs a new place to live. My brother needs you to remove that stumbling block in his life. Sister needs to you to deliver her from Substance abuse. Lord some are praying that they have passed their entire test to move on to the next grade. Ama wants to get into Medical School. Julie wants very much to be an Architect. God knows what we stand in need of before we can ask him.

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit will search us to see what we stand in need of.

(Rom 8:22, KJV) So God knows our plight. He knows what you are dealing with. He realizes that it's not going to be easy, but if you trust him he will see you though. The Apostle PAUL'S MINISTRY OF HARDSHIP. Affliction and consolation first arise in 1.3-11. Weakness points to God's empowering presence. In verse7 Clay jars once broken cannot be fixed but thrown away. The contract with treasures verse 8 & 9 shows the Power of God's Glory. Paul shows how you can overcome Adversities and press on toward the mark of the higher calling. The death of Jesus is replicated in the body of Paul's suffering with the results showing the life of Jesus Christ may be made visible. Paul shows the present tension and the ongoing renewal though our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In verse 7 Paul tells us that we are But" clay vessels and the vessels must be broken for the light to shine out. ... "that the power is God and not of us. Verse 8 & 9 of the text tells us that:

We are "TROUBLE- NOT DISTRESSED!"

We are "PERPLEXED- NOT IN DESPAIR"

We are "PERSECUTED NOT FORSAKENED."

As believers we will face trials, but we must remember that God not man controls the trials and uses them to strengthen his people; God's glory is manifested though broken vessels, through people who endure troubles by relying on His power. "CASTDOWN- NOT DESTROYED!" This literally happens to Paul in Act14:19, KJV) in Lystra a crowd stoned Paul

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and leaves him for dead. But the Lord spares his life so that he could continue to preach the gospel and testify to God's deliverance.

This is the same Paul that had been persecuting Christians until that day on the Damascus Road when Jesus came into his life. He was no longer the same. Paul went about doing God's will. We see that had Paul not been willing to risk death to bring the Gospel to Corinth, the Corinthians would not have received eternal life. I Paul had not followed the leading of the Holy Spirit. As a result many were saved. In verse 16 tells us "out outward man perish- but the "inward man is renewed every day." What Paul is saying is that "THE AFFLICTONS PRODUCE GLORY, BUT THE GLORY IS FAR GREATER THAN THE AFFLICTIONS (Mark 10:30, KJV)." "SUFFERING IN THIS LIFE OF CHRIST IS WORTH AN ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY." Verse 17-18. NOW, THERE ARE A FEW POINTS I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION.

- 1. "OUR AFFLICTIONS ARE BUT A MOMENT IN GLORY." There is a word of hope today. Beloved, "we have to keep our minds and hearts on Jesus." Jesus will keep us in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Jesus. There is a word of hope for you tonight.
- 2. Jesus wants us to bring all our problems to him and he will take care of the situation. He wants you to trust and obey him and He will give you the desires of your heart. But we have to wait on him and be of good courage. Wait on him and he will bring it to pass. There is hope for your weary soul. 3.) 1 Cor. 14:33(KJV) you see, God is not the author of confusion, but of peace as in all churches of the saints. God of power (Gen. 18:14, KJV). "Is there anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time, I will return, according to the time of life... God is our righteousness (Rom.3:5). He is there with you in the mist of your afflictions. There is hope for you today.

4. We have to pray always with thanksgiving in your heart, even though you have not received that blessing. Began to thank and Praise him anyway. It's just haven't been manifested you yet. For we know that God loves the praises of our lips. This verse gives us hope for what to come in Christ Jesus. 5. God wants us to trust and obey him. Even when times get rough and you say: "I can't take it no more." "I give up!" We have our heads in our hands and not knowing what to do next. We are confused. Well, God has a 'Word of Hope' for you to day.

"BE THOU FAITHUL SERVANT AND HE WILL GIVE YOU THE "CROWN OF LIFE." Everything we do, God sees us and nothing goes unnoticed. He's keeping a record of everything we do whether it's good or bad. The Bible tells us in Ecc. 12: 13 & 14(KJV) "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, Fear God and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into Judgment, with every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is evil." (KJV). Just hold on to God's Unchanging hands and he will bring you through. Now I am not telling you that life is going to be a bed of roses.

What I am saying is that sometimes you will have to cry some times. You will have to steal away to Jesus and talk to him. That does not mean that you are "Weak." But rather you are letting God mold you for a greater good. There are times when, God will let you suffer a little bit long to teach you something. Then there are times, when God will answer you prayer speedily. Paul had a thorn in the flesh, God did not remove it. He prayed three times and after the third time he said" his grace is sufficient for me. Jesus is interceding for you today with God right now what you stand in need of. Jesus is saying to you today "I am with you and I will protect you in every circumstance that you have to go though. He is interceding for our church, pastor, deacons, and all our believers. Just keep reminding yourself of all the times God has answered your prayer and will ees you though. It was his "Grace and Mercy" that saw you though those

most difficult times of your life. Sure they cannot make a decision in Washington or compromise. But God is in the mist of everything. There is a song called "The Solid Rock" that was written by Edward Mote and William H Bradbury that goes like this:

"MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS, THAN
JESUS BLOOD AND RIGHOUSNESS.
I DARE NOT TRUST THE SWEETEST FRAME. BUT WHOLLY LEAN ON
JESUS NAME.
ON CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK, I SAND ALL OTHER GROUND IS SINKING
SAND, ALL OTHER GROUNDIS SINKING SAND."

He talks about storms coming and how his anchor holds. Beloved, storm will come in your life. Jesus wants you to know that he will be there, every step of the way. He is that blessed hope in our lives. All we have to do is come unto Him and he will deliver us.

As you leave this gathering tonight, some of you will be going away to college, while others will be finishing out the 11 & 12th grade. I want to remember one thing. If you get into trouble or faced with a situation, I want you to know tonight that all you have to do is call on the "Name of Jesus" and he will see you through, so be encouraged my brother and sisters because He cares for you, and you, and you. May God bless and Keep you!

END OF SERMON #3

APPENDIX F PICTURES



Convent Bap tist Church



Teacher Mr. Ben Bar and students in room 403 Educational Building at CAB C.



Evelyn J. Perkins and high school students.



Mentoring Session after Class.



Minister Perkins praying for Rappers and students at the April -2, 2013 Worship Services.



Minister Perkins speaking at Closing/Dinner of May 24, 2013



New York City Councilman Robert Jackson speaking to the students on May 24, 2013 $\,$



College Fair October 19, 2013

APPENDIX G COLLEGE FAIR AND MENTORING WORKSHOPS

Evelyn J. Perkins and the African-American Experience College Fair October 19, 2013 10am-3pm

"1st EDUCATIONAL AWAWARENESS'SUMMIT" ON at-risk youth" (Flyer)

"This is a discussion we need to have in our Community.

"Why are our children at-risk?"

When: Friday, March 1, 2013 at 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Where: Convent Avenue Baptist Church

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr., Senior Pastor.

Min. Evelyn J. Perkins-Chairperson/Facilitator

CABC-Lecture Hall

420 West 145th Street

New York, N.Y. 10031

"Waiting for Superman" (6:00pm - 6:45pm)

Discussion (6:45pm -7:15pm)

PART 2: PANEL DISCUSSION (7:15pm-8:30pm)

• at-risk youth in our Community

Poverty-Social/Economic Issues

- Immigration/Dream Act
- Charter Schools vs. Public Schools

Our elected official and special guest speakers will be here to discuss these topics. Info. Contact Min. Evelyn J. Perkins success 2007@verizon.net

APPENDIX H KAPLAN SYLLABUS

Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project of Evelyn J. Perkins entitled "Mentoring AT-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry."

Mr. Ben Bar's (Teacher) Lesson Plan for the Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course held at CABC from

Feb. 2, 2013 through April 27, 2013.

Topic 1. Algebra – The Basics

Identify when Picking Numbers is appropriate and how to pick appropriate numbers.

Identify when Backsolving is appropriate and explain how to backsolve a problem.

How to eliminate incorrect answer choices and guess strategically.

How to translate word problems into expressions or equations.

How to use the order of operations to simplify numerical expressions.

How to solve for an unknown variable by applying the Cardinal Rule of Equations.

Pick Numbers or Backsolve when necessary.

How to solve for a system of equations.

Plug the appropriate values into a function.

Solve symbol questions.

Topic 2. Number Properties and Divisibility

Recognize number properties of odd, even, positive, and negative numbers.

Define factor and provide examples.

Define multiple and provide examples.

Define prime number and factor integers into their distinct prime factors.

Topic 3. Percents, Ratios, and Averages

Apply the percent formula or Pick Numbers to solve a percent problem.

Set up ratios.

Apply the average formula and find the mean, median, and mode of a set of numbers.

Topic 4. Reading Comprehension – The Basics

Use Kaplan's strategies to answer Reading Comprehension questions.

Read actively to create a Passage Map of a long passage.

Apply the Kaplan Method for Reading Comprehension to Long and Short passages.

Topic 5. Critical Reading: Detail, Vocab-in-Context, and Global question types

Use the passage to answer Detail questions.

Answer Vocab-in-Context questions.

Answer Global questions by predicting an answer that aligns with the purpose.

Topic 6. SAT Essay I

Explain the Essay question.

Restate the Essay prompt.

Create an effective plan for an SAT Essay.

(Teacher's Lesson Plan continue)

Write a strong thesis statement that answers the question posed in the prompt; write strong topic sentences; write strong paragraphs, and write a strong conclusion; and proofread.

Topic 7. Exponents, Inequalities, and Absolute Value

Multiply and divide exponents without a calculator.

Rationalize a radical.

Solve inequalities for an unknown variable and know when to change the inequality sign.

Solve an absolute value equation for an unknown.

Manipulate number lines.

Topic 8. Linear and Non-Linear Graphs

Graph y = mx + b, and find the slope and y-intercept of a line.

Find the equations of lines that are parallel and perpendicular to y = mx + b.

Factor quadratics and use the FOIL technique to multiply polynomials.

Graph a parabola.

Topic 9. Angles, Triangles, and Polygons

Recognize properties of lines cut by a transversal.

Define parallel, tangent, and perpendicular.

Explain basic properties of a triangle.

Use the Pythagorean Theorem to solve for an unknown side of a right triangle.

Memorize common Pythagorean Triplets and their multiples.

Apply the properties of special right triangles (45-45-90 and 30-60-90).

Recognize properties of regular polygons.

Topic 10. The Kaplan Methods for SAT English and Usage

Use the Kaplan Methods for Writing Multiple Choice.

Recognize common idiomatic expressions.

List the FANBOYS conjunctions.

Correct a run-on sentence by adding a semi-colon, by making one clause dependent, or by adding a FANBOYS conjunction.

Identify sentence fragments and correct them.

Match a plural subject with a plural verb and singular verb with a singular subject.

Identify when an inappropriate verb tense is being used.

Topic 11. SAT Reading: Inference and Function Questions

Answer Inference questions by predicting an answer and looking for support in the passage.

Answer Function questions by predicting an answer and looking for support in the passage.

Teachers Lesson Plans continue.

Topic 12. SAT Writing: Style Issues and Logic in Writing Recognize redundancy in a sentence.

Identify parallel structure in a sentence.

Use transitions to clearly indicate the flow of a paragraph.

Identify and correct misplaced modifiers.

Correct misused adjectives and adverbs.

Replace nouns with the appropriate pronouns.

Make appropriate comparisons.

Topic 13. Circles and Advanced Geometry

Find the radius, diameter, circumference, and area of a circle.

Draw a line that is tangent to a circle and use tangent lines appropriately.

Use the ratio between sector area, arc length, and internal angles appropriately.

Break complex figures into separate shapes. (Course Book only)

Find the volume or surface area of a given solid.

Use your knowledge of polygons and geometry to answer questions involving solids.

Topic 14. Probability, Sets, and Sequences

Find the probability of compound events.

Find the intersection and union of sets.

Find terms in an arithmetic sequence. (Course Book only)

Topic 15. Patterns, Logics and Data; Math ReKap

Use charts, tables, and graphs to answer questions.

Use logic to answer math questions.

Differentiate between permutations and combinations and use the appropriate calculator functions or equations to answer them.

Set up proportions and solve problems involving distance, rate, and time.

Topic 16. The Kaplan Method for Sentence Completions

Identify Keywords and use them to make a prediction in sentence completion questions.

Use Word Charge, Word Roots, and other Kaplan Strategies to Predict an answer and Eliminate incorrect answer choices.

Apply the Kaplan Method to answer Definition sentence completion questions.

Apply the Kaplan Method to answer Contrast sentence completion questions.

Apply the Kaplan Method to answer Cause-and-Effect sentence completion questions.

Topic 17. SAT Reading: Paired Passages and Reading ReKap

Apply the Kaplan Method for Reading Comprehension to Long and Short passages.

Teacher's Lesson Plans continue.

Read actively to create a Passage Map of a Long passage. Use Kaplan's strategies to answer Critical Reading questions. Apply the Kaplan Method for Paired Passages.

Topic 18. SAT Essay II – Putting it all together; Writing ReKap
Explain the Essay question.
Restate the Essay prompt.
Create an effective plan for an SAT Essay.
Write a strong thesis statement, topic sentences, paragraphs, and conclusion; save time to proofread.
Use transitions effectively to enhance the clarity of the Essay.
Write an SAT Essay.

Min. Perkins' Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: A College Prep Ministry." Kaplan-Taught SAT Prep Course Teacher for Feb. 2-April 27, 2013

Ben Bar (Teacher)

Ben.Bar@kaplan.com

EDUCATION

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

Bachelor of Arts December 2010

Triple Major: Economics, Philosophy, Language & Linguistics

Minor: Italian Studies

Dean's List GPA: 3.69 / 4.0

SKILLS

• Fluent Italian; Conversational French and Hebrew

EXPERIENCE

Kaplan, New York, NY

October 2011 - present

SAT & SHSAT Instructor/Tutor

• Teach SAT &SHSAT prep courses, proctor exams, grade essays, tutor

Success Charter Network, New York, NY

Summer 2011

Summer Teaching Fellow

- Completed 3-week training program that included: classroom management techniques, how to deliver effective lessons, how to effectively support a Lead Teacher
- Completed two 3-week summer school sessions, serving as an Assistant Teacher with a class of 25 six-to-seven year olds; taught full lessons as a Lead Teacher would

American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY

Summer 2008

- **Summer Youth Guide**
- Designed and led tours of the museum, mostly to camp groups ranging from 15-50 persons
- Completed 4-week training program that included: overview of museum collections, how to deliver effective customer service, public speaking clinic

Trevor Day School, New York, NY

Fall '05 - Spring '06, Spring 2011

Tutor

- Provided general organizational support for a 6th grader, weekly
- Assisted in understanding basic English and Math concepts

KravMaga Academy NYC, New York, NY

March 2011 – Dec 2012

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Instructor

• Teach classes of 6-12 people (teens & adults); train amateur MMA fighters in small groups

APPENDIX I LETTERS AND EMAILS

LETTER

January 6, 2013

Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. Senior Pastor of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church 420 West 145th Street, 2nd Fl. New York, New York 10031

Dear Dr. Williams,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God has been good. I was asked by the Dean to come into the Doctor of Ministry (Micah) Program in December of 2011 at the New York Theological Seminary located in Manhattan. We had a late start, yet, we were able to catch up with D. Min. workload. I am now in my second year of the Doctor of Ministry (Micah) Program, which is in 'Leadership and Community Organizing in Social Justice.' When I came into the Doctor of Ministry (Micah)Program in February, 2012,1 was asked what my Demonstration Project would focus on? As a preacher and educator, I have found that there is a lack of educational programs for the at-risk youth in our church and Harlem Community. An at-risk youth is one who is socially/economically deprived, born in poverty, may be homeless, reading below the state standardize test or it could be a high school student who did not receive their high school diplomas. There are many reasons why our high school students are at-risk. My Doctor of Ministry's Demonstration Project will center on "Preparing our young at-risk youth for the College Admissions Process" in our church and the Hamilton Heights Area of Harlem. My Demonstration Project Proposal is now being considered. It will take time for NYTS approve my project, but I have been working with my director/advisor, Dr. Wanda M. Lundy. As I explained in December (at the Staff Luncheon) that Kaplan is one of the best SAT Prep Services in the Country. In order to achieve my goal, I have asked the Kaplan K12 Learning Services will assist me in preparing our young people for the college admissions process with a ten week 'Kaplan SAT Prep Course' from February 2, 2013 - April 27th (9-lpm on Saturdays) for the May 4th 2013 exam. I would like to use room 311 for the Kaplan SAT Prep Course and 310 to use before the class on Saturdays. Through individual sponsors, I am able to offer 16 'FREE' spaces for needy students in our church and community.

Kaplan has asked if we could have a space for them to come for help, during the week, to assist in homework assignments. With limited budget, it might not be feasible at this time. On March 1,2013, with your approval, I would like to use the Fellowship Hall from 6 pm-9 pm for a movie and Educational Focus group to discuss educational issues in the Harlem Community.

Many thank you Pastor Williams and Board of Deacons' Chair, Catherine Coleman, and leaders for helping me to create and develop a "College Prep Ministry" that will serve the church and the community as well. This Kaplan SAT Prep Course will help at-risk youth in our church and community to be more prepared for the college admissions process and take their rightful place in society.

Yours in Christ, Minister Evelyn J. Perkins, Associate Minister & Doctor of Ministry Student at New York Theological Seminary Cc: Catherine Coleman (Chair - Board of Deacon of CABC)

420 West 145* Street • New York, NY 100^1 • Tel. (212) 234-6767 • Fax (212) 234-6019

EMAILS

Verizon Message Center Monday, Sep 16 at 5:46 PM

From: Jane Berkowitz <jane.berkowitz@kaplan.com>
To: success2007@verizon.net

Subject: Re: Update on D.Min. Project and Payment

Evelyn,

We closed out your Kaplan SAT course account about a month ago. You do not need to remit further payment for this course, If in the future you get the funding to sponsor another Kaplan SAT course at the church, I would be happy to meet with you to plan such a course. Regarding the letter describing our partnership this year, perhaps you and I can have a phone conversation to review the highlights of the course. At that time I will consult with my boss to see if I can draft a letter on Kaplan letterhead for your portfolio. Perhaps we can have this conversation next week. What is your availability for this call? Thank you, Jane Berkowitz

On Mon, Sep 16, 2013 at 12:30 PM, <success2007(3>verizon.net> wrote:

! Good Morning Jane,

I Hope you had a wonderful Holiday. I will be making a payment on my bill the 3 of October. I was down to NYTS to register for the 3rd and final year of the Doctor of Ministry Program. While I was there, | I gave my advisor an update on my D.Min. Project. My financial loan will be coming through in next I month and will be to fulfill my financial obligations to Kaplan, I appreciate you kindness and consideration need one more favor. I was wondering, if the CEO of Kaplan (your boss) could write a letter about what we have done together for at-risk youth Saturday Kaplan SAT Program this spring. I would like to include a letter stating:" How Faith-Based Organizations and local church can work together in the educational process to aid High School Students' who maybe at-risk of Academic i Failure." If he or she is not available than it would be okay for you to write it on Kaplan's stationary. I would need a physical letter by the end of October, so that I can include it in my finished Doctor of! Ministry Demonstration Project for New York Theological Seminary. Thesis or Doctor of Ministry i Project." Kaplan has been a big part of the success of my Doctor of Ministry Project, so I want to make sure that there is something in there from your company. In the meantime, I am trying to get an interview with Chancellor Walcott and Councilman Jackson. I am still waiting for my certificate of; incorporation for my new at-risk youth Program. I also have an appointment with my pastor tomorrow. I will keep you posted on everything! On Saturday, October 19. 2013 from 10am to 3 PM at Convent Avenue Baptist Church, 420 West 145th! Street in the Lecture Hall (the same place we had the Closing Dinner). I hope you can make it. I am trying to put together a "Financial Aid Workshop" as soon as possible. Thanks again for your help.

Respectfully, Min. Evelyn Perkins, Doctor of Ministry Student - NYTS And Assoc. Minister of CABC.

On 07/15/13, Jane Berkowitz<iane.berkowitz@kaplan.com> wrote.

Evelyn,

Can we meet on Tuesday, July 23 at Convent Baptist Church at 5:00 pm.? Thank you, Jane

| On Mon, Jul 15, 2013 at 10:39 AM, <success2007@verizon.net> wrote:

Convent Avenue Baptist Church
"Changed People, changing the community and the world for Jesus Christ"

Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. Senior Pastor February 19, 2013

Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. Senior Pastor of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church 425 West 145th Street New York, New York 10031

OFFICIAL LETTER

Dear Dr. Williams,

Thank you for allowing me to do my Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project here at Convent Avenue Baptist Church. I have found that there are many educational issues concerning our "At-risk youth," here in the Hamilton Heights Area of Harlem. My Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project will focus on "Mentoring 'At-risk' youth and preparing our high school students for the College Admissions Process." I would like to raise the "AWARENESS" with an "Educational Awareness Summit" on Friday, March 1, 2013 from 6-8:30 pm in the Lecture Hall. I would like to extend an invitation to you to be one of the panelists. Your topic is "Education and our at-risk youth." Here are some of the topics of discussion.

- Documentary "Waiting for Superman" (45mn)
- at-risk youth in the Community
- Poverty, Immigration, Social/Economic Issues
- Charter Schools vs. Public Schools

I know that "Education" has been one of your Social Justice Issues. I hope that you will be able to come and "voice" your views on the issues concerning our at-risk youth in the Harlem Community. I can be reached at 718-671-4405 or success2007@,verizon.net. Thank you for your support and participation.

Yours in Christ,

Minister Evelyn J. Perkins, one of your Associate Ministers of CABC

Doctor of Ministry (Micah) Student at New York Theological Seminary in Manhattan

420 West 145lh Street • New York, NY 10031 • Tel. (212) 234-6767 • Fax (212) 234-6019

EMAIL

Verizon Message Center Monday, Apr 22 at 2:50 PM

From: Evelyn Turner <evelyntinez@aol.com>
To: rboone@riverbaycorp.com
Cc: success2007@verizon.net

Subject: Fwd: Harriet Tubman Independent Democratic Club Please, Please correct name to Minister Perkins throughout article. My error Thanks

—Original Message— From: EVELYNTINEZ <EVELYNTINEZ@aol.com> To: valencia.bldg19.21a <valencia.bldg19.21a@gmail.com> Sent: Sun, Apr 21, 2013 9:39 pm

Subject: Fwd: Harriet Tubman Independent Democratic Club Stop by if you can. From: EVELYNTINEZ@aol.com To: rboone@riverbavcorD.com

Sent: 4/21/2013 9:21:53 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time Subj: Harriet Tubman Independent Democratic Club

The Community is invited to attend our next meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 - Einstein Community Center, Room 35 at 7:00 PM. Membership is NOT required to attend Our Special Guest Speaker will be Author/ Minister Evelyn J. Perkins. Come hear her poignant story about her journey from Alabama to New York, Minister Perkins will share her personal experience of being viciously attached in 1999 by four Special Education (Emotionally Disturbed) Students at John Sousa Middle School 142 on the way home on Boston Road that led to three (3) back surgeries. She will inspire you (especially teachers) motivate and educate you about school politics, unions, suppression of information and medical leave. Minister Jenkins chronicles her spiritual journey from being called by God to Preach, Female Ministers, New York Theological Seminary, the College of New Rochelle and Fordham University. She will give you a startling perspective on BACK PAIN, ways to recover, different treatments etc. It's her real life story about God, Family and fierce determination to get the most out of life. She writes it was, "God's grace that sustained me and kept me going," "I am thankful for God carrying me those days I could not walk "Minister Evelyn J. Perkins is the Associate Minister of Convent Avenue Baptist Church and lives in Co-op City. Please pass the word, especially Educators, Female Ministers and anyone who are experiencing any type of back pains. There will be a Book Signing (Overcoming Back Surgery and Finding My Way Back) after the meeting. Also, Minister Perkins captures the complexities of desiring to teach older children with emotional and learning challenges. Prior to the Guest speaker we will discuss political and community items of interest and plans for an early fall fund raiser.

Evelyn M. Turner President

Verizon Message Center Wednesday, May 15 at 4:57 PM

From: "John Marlene" < MMJohn@schools.nyc.gov>
To: success2007@verizon.net

Subject: Convent Avenue Baptist Church Closing/Dinner

Dear Minister Perkins,

Thank you for inviting Chancellor Walcott attend Convent Avenue Baptist Church Closing/Dinner on Friday, May 24th. It looks like a wonderful event, and he appreciates the invitation. Unfortunately, however, he has a previous commitment that evening and is unable to attend. He wishes you the best of luck with the event.

Best, Marlene

LETTER

May 6, 2013

OFFICIAL LETTER TO ALL PARENTSOF THE KAPLAN SAT PREP COURSE

Dear Mr. /Mrs.

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. My name is Minister
Evelyn J. Perkins. I am one of the Associate Ministers of Convent Avenue Baptist
Church, in Harlem under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr.,
Senior Pastor. I am a Doctor of Ministry (Micah) Candidate at New York
Theological Seminary in Manhattan. My Doctor of Ministry Demonstration Project
focuses on "Mentoring at-risk youth" and preparing them for the College
Admission Process. One of the components of my projects was a Kaplan
SAT Prep Course for at-risk youth in the Harlem Community. There were 14
students, who participated in the Kaplan SAT Prep Course on Saturdays
from February 2, 2013 to April 27, 2013. It was a pleasure to have your
son/daughter to enroll in this class. They did an outstanding job. We will be having
a "Closing/Dinner" on May 24, 2013 to acknowledge their "hard work and
perseverance." I hope you will be able to attend. The time and place is listed below.
Date: May 24, 2013 at 6-7:30pmLocation: Convent Avenue Baptist Church's Lecture Hall, 420 West 145Street, New York,
New York 10031.

Tell hope you will be able to come and fellowship with us. It is so important for you to meet the teacher (Mr. Ben Bar from Kaplan) and others who contribute scholarships for the students to attend this "Kaplan SAT Prep Course ""FREE OF CHARGE." I can be reached at 718-671-4405 or success 2007@verizon.net.

Yours in Christ.

Minister Evelyn J. Perkins, an Associate Minister of CABC & Doctor of Ministry Candidate at New York Theological Seminary in Manhattan. Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr., Senior Pastor of CABC

R.S.V.P.

420 West 145th Street • New York, NY 10031 • Tel. (212) 234-6767 • Fax (212) 234-6019

Hello Minister Perkins,

First thank you for your consistent interest and support in the Chosen youth ministry.

I'm certain if you are aware of this but Sis. Kim Middleton & Bro. Charles Miller who are both youth workers are getting married on 9/21/13. I think it would be wise to reschedule the Career Day to a later date. I think October might be better since It is also the month of youth Week.

Sis. Rory,

Could you please coordinate a date with Min. Perkins for the Career Day? I would like to include the young adult ministry as well. Our adolescents and college students could use some good career advice as well. I would like to have a new date by the end of this month, so that we can appropriately invite presenters and market this event.

Thank you both! Rev. L

Start by doing what's necessary, then what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible." St. Francis of Assist

verizon Verizon Message Center

Tuesday, Dec 18 at 5:50 PM

From:

success2007@verizon.net

To:

lbm_dst14@yahoo.com, success2007@verizon.net

Subject:

Kaplan SAT test prep at CABC

Good Afternoon Minister Jackson,

I hope everything is well with you and your family. I am in the Doctor of Ministry Program at NYTS. In the spring I will be implementing my demonstration project. Last week I met with Dr. Lundy she narrow down my proposal entitled "Mentoring young At-Risk Youth in the Hamilton Heights Area of Hamlem." She wants me to focus on "College Prep." I have secured Kaplan SAt prep to come in on Saturdays at CABC to teach "SAT Prep Course" for 10 weeks, which will be leading up to the May 4, 2013 SAT test. Rev. Logan asked me to get in touch with you. He said," There maybe some adults that could use this as well. The fee is \$300. for 10 sessions. Here are the days:

Saturday- Feb. 2, 9, 23, March 2, 9, 16, and April 6, 13, 20 & 27. from 9AM to 1 PM. On instructional days they will get out at 12 noon.

Thank you for sharing this with your Young Adult Ministry. Have a wonderful Christmas.

Yours in Christ, Min. Evelyn J. Perkins

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